

Scotland Yard officer joins search for the Yorkshire Ripper

Cadmium in teeth of children

Kicks 'likely cause of fatal injury'

Spinal unit stays open after revolt by patients

Make juice from surplus apples, farmers urge EEC

Whitelaw praise for self help

A black and white photograph of a long, multi-story building with a series of gabled roofs, likely a historical structure in a European city. The building features multiple windows and a prominent central section with a slightly different roofline. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost silhouette-like quality.

Getty home for sale: Sutton Place, near Guildford, Surrey, home of the late J. Paul Getty, the oil millionaire, who died in 1976, is to be sold (our Estates Correspondent writes). No one is hastening to put a figure on the price

it might realize, but professional estimates put it at several millions. The sale is through Lintot Residential, of London. The house, which Mr Getty acquired from the Duke of Sutherland in 1939, was built between 1521 and 1526 by Sir Richard Weston, a friend and trusted servant of Henry VIII. It was one of the first private houses to be built without fortification. Sutton Place has survived the centuries with remarkably little change and has a grade one listing as being of special architectural or historic interest.

Sex banned from drink advertising

Advertising claims that a drink may encourage sexual success were banned yesterday.

Advertisements can no longer imply that a drink can improve physical performance.

The Incorporated Council of British Advertisers and has been welcomed by the Department of Health.

A revised code of practice for advertising must be socially responsible. "The immature, the young, the socially insecure or those with physical, mental or social incapacity, should not be the targets of such advertising."

The new rules state that advertisements should not be

directed at young people or is in any way encourage them to start drinking. Anyone shown drinking must be, and appear to be, over 21.

Advertisements should not be based on date, nor implicate any failing to those who do not accept the challenge of a particular drink.

The revised code also says advertisements should not be "stimulating, seductive, or tranquillizing effects of any drink. They 'should neither claim nor suggest that any drink can contribute towards sexual success or that the drinker may attract a mate to the opposite sex'".

The code states that

Threat to family butchers

Family butchers were a disappearing species, Mr Edward Redmond, managing director of Eucuan Meat Producers, the largest meat cooperative in Scotland, said yesterday. "I think it will happen because there is such competition among High Street supermarkets," he said.

They enjoyed a small percentage of the fresh food trade where profit margins were higher than on processed

Oil pollution menace to sea birds 'enormous'

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A survey of oil pollution around the British Isles concludes that the Government and industry have failed to tackle the difficulties, and that international law has proved equally ineffective.

That is the judgment contained in a report submitted to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Records covering more than 70 years, from the first known oil spill off the Isles of Scilly, show an acceleration of damage to marine life over the past few years.

The first period of record, between October, 1973 and June 1979, 16 pollution incidents killed more than 12,000 sea-birds. Of those, nine incised the west coast of Scotland, five off the coasts of northern Scotland, Orkney and Shetland.

An indication of the decline in colonies is highlighted at Freshwater, Isle of Man, where 3,000 gulls, mostly in 1937 had dropped to 1,200 by 1946, to 90 by 1967, and to 39 by 1972.

The report says that, but for the like of the 100,000 sea-catchers and guks are most vulnerable.

More than 40 r-recommendations are made in the document. *Marine Offenders* prevention legislation enforcement research and development. They are based on the opportunity with the economic impact of North Sea oil fields; and increase in tanker traffic; the potential for damage to energy-packed products; and the early off Scotland, is enormous.

The recommendations include: extension of the three-mile limit to 12 miles; enlargement of the United Kingdom's jurisdiction over foreign vessels; joint action by the EEZ states to target illegal pollution and better policing of the seas, so that ships discharging oil can be detected and fined heavily.

Social service chiefs to fight cuts

The campaign was announced during the annual social services conference, organized jointly by the Association of County Councils and the Association of Social Work Authorities, both of which are Conservative controlled and which broadly support the Gov-

The conference is due to be addressed today by Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, who can be expected to deliver a speech in which he will criticize from the directors are reminding delegates that while in Opposition Mr. Jenkin promised that an independent Social Services Commission would wish to maintain expenditure on social services at present levels.

The impending cuts have so far dominated the conference and the 46 delegates are frustrated at the lack of discussion on their implications and open to the floor.

The directors resolved unanimously to call on the Government to restore funding to the local authorities to allow them to at least maintain previous levels of social services provision.

Overtime ban by orchestra threatens to shorten opera

Be Martin Huckerby
Music Correspondent

Verdi's *Aida* will probably
not be performed at the English
National Opera tonight and on
Saturday because of an over-
sight. The management has
by the orchestra.

The intervals will be cut
short and the production will
be seen in a slightly reduced
form. There will, as be musical
cuts.

Mr Bernard Parris, secretary
of the Central London branch
of the Musicians' Union, said
new salary scales should have
been introduced at the start of
the season in August. So the
management had only offered
a 12 per cent increase, giving
an individual salary of about £110
a week.

The orchestra had finally
decided to impose sanctions
working for only seven or three
sessions at the most. *Aida*
would count as two sessions
and thus other performances

could be halted. At the moment other productions are not scheduled so they can all be completed within the three-hour limit.

The cuts could still be avoided if the management could make a new offer to the union at a meeting this morning. The musicians' full claim is for a minimum of £140 a week, but Mr Parry said the players were willing to accept a compromise.

A similar dispute is continuing at the Royal Opera House where the management is also offering 12 per cent. The restriction on Saturday rehearsals there caused the cancellation of performances of Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. The unions meet the management again on November 28.

Both Covent Garden and the Coliseum are in difficulties over increasing their offering because of their financial difficulties, caused by inflation and by grazers they believe to be unequated.

Flights delayed five hours by thick fog

Fog covered **Hearrow** airport, London, yesterday morning reducing visibility to 100 yards delaying flights for up to five hours and causing diversions to other airports.

Inbound services were diverted to **Garwick**, **Prestwick** and airports throughout Europe. Visibility improved by midday and airlines started to clear the backlog of passengers and aircraft.

Liverpool and **Manchester** airports were also closed by fog.

A motorist was killed and several other people seriously injured in more than a dozen accidents after freezing fog blanketed North Merseyside. Police closed both carriageways of the **M52** motorway over a 15-mile stretch from the **Liverpool** exit to allow the police and salvage teams to continue.

Motorists' Organisations described conditions as chaotic and said that many drivers had acted irresponsibly.

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BLUNT INTERVIEW

Professor Blunt tells how he spied for Russia

Professor Blunt was interviewed yesterday at the Times building in Gray's Inn Road after issuing his statement. The questions were asked by Louis Heren, Deputy Editor of the Times, Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter of the Times, and David Leigh, a member of the Guardian staff. The interview, which lasted for more than one hour and twenty minutes, was recorded by staff from the BBC and Independent Radio News. Professor Blunt was not given any warning of the questions to be asked although Mr Michael Rubinstein, his solicitor, was present throughout the interview. The transcript is as follows.

Professor Blunt, I would like first to give you my position as a journalist as far as this interview is concerned. The Prime Minister announced in the House that you worked for the Soviet Union, that in 1964 you confessed and were granted immunity, or absolution, if you like. Therefore we are not sitting here in moral judgment. We are just asking you, what happened?

Q: Now judging from your 1937 essay on aid under capitalism and socialism, which I read with great interest, you were a convinced Marxist. I should have written that essay. So would you first like to tell us when you first became a communist and why?

A: I became a communist and more particularly a Marxist in my early years. I was born in 1904, in the town of Cambridge. I had a socialist upbringing. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: I should have thought it was an official secret. A: Yes, it was. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: Why is that? A: I think I was vetted when I joined the Intelligence Corps in 1939. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: I think that question because it was suggested that in fact you went to Russia at one point with Burgess. A: I did go to Russia for a holiday, not with Guy. I think it was in 1935 or 1936. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: I think it was just before. A: Now at that time your main activities were in the cause of anti-Fascism, was that to be a talent spotter? A: Yes, I was. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: Were there any other duties you performed at that time? A: No. Q: How many of them did you spot? A: Well this is something I'm afraid where I must take refuge behind the Official Secrets Act. Q: Did Guy Burgess suggest to you that you should be a talent spotter? A: Yes.

Q: Was this because you were then a fellow of Trinity and a sort of father figure to a generation of undergraduates? A: Up to a point. It was certainly connected with the fact that I was a fellow of Trinity and was therefore resident in Cambridge. Q: If you cannot say who you may have spotted, can you say for how long you pursued this role? A: Until 1937, when I left Cambridge and came to London.

Q: So that would be from 1935 to 1937. A: Yes. From 1935 or 1936. Q: What did you do when you got to London? A: I got a job at the Warburg Institute. Q: And did you still work as a talent-spotter or anything? A: No. Q: Just to go back on this, I do not quite see how the Official Secrets Act would apply to dis-

closure of how many you recruited. It is not information that you obtained from... A: But it is I think an official secret. Q: It is an official secret if it is government information. I cannot see how, how many you spotted, constituted an official secret. Do you mean that you have been asked not to reveal this? A: Well, I suppose it means that I have revealed this to the security service and therefore it becomes an official secret.

Q: Let us put it this way, let us try and quantify it very roughly: Did you—a very few or many? A: Very few. Q: Is this an area you discussed with the Cabinet for example—are you open to disclosure? Are you taking decisions on what you can disclose and what you can not, on your own authority or after discussion with Sir Robert Armstrong (Secretary to the Cabinet)? A: No, I think on my understanding of the Official Secrets Act.

Q: But you say very few? A: Yes. Q: Now was Burgess your only connection with Soviet intelligence? A: I knew of the existence of Philby and Maclean. Q: At what point did you know of the existence of Burgess and Maclean? A: Philby during the war; both of them I think during the war. I am just trying to set my memory of dates.

Q: But they were your only connection with Soviet intelligence? A: Yes. Q: There was not a man, an agent, no letter drops, or anything like that? A: I was eventually in touch myself. I don't know with whom; I have no idea what his name was. Q: When was that? A: I suppose during the war.

Q: And how did you communicate? A: Well, that I'm afraid I cannot say. Q: During that time were you not in fact, believe, staying on quite a few occasions with a friend in Ireland? A: No. Q: As I understand it, professor, when the war came you were actually rejected by military intelligence? A: Yes. Well, I was accepted and rejected by the same post.

Q: And then you joined the Army? A: Yes. Q: You went to France, came back, then you joined MIS. How did you join? Did you apply or was it arranged for you or how? A: Well, like all those, that kind of recruitment, it was done simply. Someone who was in MIS recommended me. I was recommended. Q: The old boy network?

Q: Can you name that person? A: I would rather not. Q: Can I just go back on one point? Is he clean? A: Perfectly. Q: When you said you could not say how you communicated, is this again because you prefer not to interfere with the Official Secrets Act? A: I should have thought it was an official secret.

Q: When you were accepted, or when you applied to MIS in 1940, did they vet you? A: Only I think in a very routine way. Q: Why is that? A: I think I was vetted when I joined the Intelligence Corps in 1939. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club. I was a member of the Cambridge Socialist Club.

Q: The Intelligence Corps, yes, and it was a moment I think when, owing to pressure, vetting was undoubtedly very strict. I think the Intelligence Corps was not really an intelligence outfit; I mean they did field security and things like that. A: Yes, well of course, I was... Q: You were... there was no reason why they should give you a complete vetting. So, when you applied for MIS you say you were vetted in a routine way. Was that because everyone was so busy?

Q: Presumably the old boy who recruited you to MIS would have been aware of your open past convictions? A: Yes. Q: When you were with MIS during the war, to whom did you pass on the information? Was it an agent or was it one of your English friends? A: Both.

Q: So you never met the agent? A: Yes I did. Q: You did meet the agent. A Russian? A: Russian. Q: Could we have his name? A: I do not know it. Q: Was he with the embassy? A: I suppose so.

Q: When you met? A: Well, again I think that these are things that should not be discussed. Q: In London, casually? A: In London, yes. Q: I think before the German invasion of Russia, or after? A: Mainly after. I joined MIS in 1940.

Q: What sort of information was passed before the invasion? A: Almost nothing. At that point I was in a very important section—a section where I had very little access to very little information—it could have been of the most routine kind. Q: What kind of routine kind? A: Who were members of the office.

Q: Was that a help to them do you think? A: I should think they knew most of it already. Q: How did you agree about what kind of thing was required? I am interested in the mechanics of this. Were you told this is the kind of thing that would be helpful to us or helpful to the cause of anti-Fascism? A: Up to a point, but the general brief was, I think, quite untruthfully that anything.

Q: Now, after Russia's entry into the war, what kind of information did you pass them? Presumably you were in a more senior position? A: Well, then I moved; it was not so much senior but to a position where I saw much more information and it was almost entirely about the German intelligence services. Largely intercepts; mainly intercepts.



Sitting at the head of the table, Professor Blunt faces the press.

'This was political conscience against loyalty to country: I chose conscience'

In the mid-1930s it seemed to me and to many of my contemporaries that the Communist Party and Russia constituted the only firm bulwark against Fascism, since the Western democracies were taking an uncertain and compromising attitude towards Germany. I was persuaded by Guy Burgess that I could best serve the cause of anti-Fascism by joining him in his work for the Russians. This was a case of political conscience against loyalty to country: I chose conscience.

When later I realized the true facts about Russia, I was prevented from taking any action by personal loyalty; I could not denounce my friends. In 1964 an event took place which meant that I was no longer bound by this loyalty, and being promised immunity, I was relieved to give the authorities all the information in my possession.

From 1945 I ceased to pass information to the Russians but in 1951 I was in contact with them on behalf of Burgess. I was myself pressed to go to Russia. I refused.

Andrew Boyle has stated that I obtained from a former colleague in MIS the exact date on which Maclean was to be interviewed. There is no truth in this story. I had no contacts with MIS between 1945 and 1951, and I had no information from any other source as a result of which I might have tipped off Maclean; and I did not in fact do so.

In 1945 I went back to my normal academic work and was also appointed Surveyor of the King's Pictures. I did not apply for or seek this appointment, but I was pressed to allow my name to be put forward, and, when offered it, accepted on the grounds that I knew there was much work to be done on the collection and that I believed I could do it. I resigned from the post in 1972 on the grounds that I felt I had done what I could for the collection, which was in effect being looked after by my deputy, Sir Oliver Miller; but I was asked to stay on as Adviser for the Queen's Pictures and Drawings.

In 1956 the Queen honoured me with a knighthood. It has been said that I "accepted" the knighthood. In fact, as a member of the Royal Household, I was not told in advance and the first that I knew of the matter was reading the announcement in *The Times*. When Mr Michael Rubinstein told me that the Queen was going to strip me of my knighthood I immediately wrote to the proper authority offering to resign it, but presumably the letter did not arrive before the announcement was made.

When I was told of the impending statement in Parliament by Mrs Thatcher I did not at any time contemplate leaving the country. But I realized that there would inevitably be a barrage of inquiries from the Press while questions were being asked in Parliament and I knew that I could not give helpful answers to questions which might be put to me so long as I was unaware of exactly what the ministerial answers would say. I should add that I remained, as I still remain, under the constraint of the Official Secrets Act.

I am encouraged by the letters from my former students and by messages from colleagues and friends to hope that I shall be able to resume my work as an art historian.

Q: German intelligence, where, in Britain or... A: No, no, in Europe. Q: You say almost. What else did you pass? A: Well, again, purely routine things, like membership of the office and so on. Q: Was MIS... at the time concerned about Soviet activity in Britain? A: Theoretically, yes, but of course it was a very minor issue. Everything was focused on the German problem, and there was a section technically looking after Soviet activities and the Communist Party. But it was very small and very inaccurate, as one can imagine.

Q: Did you have Soviet information to this effect? As I understand it, there was some concern about Soviet activity in Britain? Presumably you would have passed on the information? A: If I had had it, I would have passed it on. I don't remember it. Q: But you would have passed on information that was relatively inaccurate? A: Yes.

Q: During this period, from Russia's entry into the war until the end of the war, when you were working for the Soviet Union, was your conscience clear that much easier, were you feeling that you were contributing to an Allied force? A: Very much so. Q: Many of your colleagues at Cambridge and elsewhere at the start of the war when Germany and Russia signed a pact, I believe actually abandoned communism in disgust. You did not. What did you feel about that? A: Well, I did not because we argued that it was simply a tactical necessity for Russia to gain time, as indeed turned out to be the case: it gave them time to rearm and to get stronger to resist what was clearly going to happen. I think a lot of people felt that at that time.

Q: At the end of the war, you were demobilized; what did you do for the Russians between 1945 and 1951? A: Nothing. Q: Absolutely nothing? A: No. Q: Were they still interested in you? Did you still have contacts? A: No. I mean I could have had a contact through Guy; but I was in no position to give them any information of interest; but there has been some reference to confidential papers which I might have seen at Buckingham Palace. This is, of course, nonsense.

Q: It has also been said that you carried on working, living up loose ends, at any rate. A: That is totally untrue. Q: How did you break off contact with the Russians? A: What, at that point? Q: At the end of the war? A: Well, it just happened. They realized that I was no longer interesting. Q: The name of Guy Burgess keeps coming up. He is often portrayed as a drunk, a homosexual, wild man and so on. He seems to have played an extraordinarily important part. How would you assess Burgess? A: Well, Burgess when I first met him as an undergraduate was rather the most remarkable one of

to be put forward, and, when offered it, accepted on the grounds that I knew there was much work to be done on the collection and that I believed I could do it. I resigned from the post in 1972 on the grounds that I felt I had done what I could for the collection, which was in effect being looked after by my deputy, Sir Oliver Miller; but I was asked to stay on as Adviser for the Queen's Pictures and Drawings.

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Q: What date was the statement in Parliament? A: When Guy came back from America, which was a week, it might have been 10 days, before they left. He came back with the information from... Q: And he told you that Philby had told him that they were spying in? A: That they were spying in, yes. Q: Did you not feel obliged to warn the security services? A: No, because they were my colleagues.

Q: You said in your statement that you had contact on behalf of Guy in 1951 with the Russians. A: Well, that, when Guy came back he put me in direct contact and after that I had gone to him to take to this contact; and it was at that point that I had orders to go to Russia and I refused.

Q: You use the term "orders". In what sense orders? Because you had simply taken me over as they took him over for the Russians after the war? A: Well, I had not formally broken. Q: You had not seen them for five to six years, so what did they assume you were in the intervening time? A: I think they probably assumed that I was still with them.

Q: Why did Guy put you in direct contact at this point? A: I suppose he thought rightly that I was not going to go, that I was obviously going to be a prime suspect and I suppose he thought that if the thing got critical, they might simply take me over as they took him over, not reckoning on the fact... Q: But were you able to help Guy or the agents in any way? A: No, no way.

Q: I think if we may stop chasing the so-called fact and now go on to your state of mind at the time. You say in your statement that you had changed your mind about communism? When, in fact, did you change your mind, when did you think that the Soviet Union was not the... A: This was a gradual process and I find it very difficult to analyse. It is, after all, more than 30 years ago. But it was the information that came out immediately after the war. During the war one was simply thinking of them as Allies etc, but then with the information about the camps.

Q: What about things such as Czechoslovakia? Did that help to change your mind? A: In 1947? A: No, 1948. A: Oh, sorry, yes, it was episodes of that kind that have thought about this a great deal and I cannot say exactly at what time, but it was accumulative evidence.

Q: So by the time that 1951 came along... you were clear? A: So I was clear. Q: Were you actively hostile to the Soviets? Was there a definite point when you could say, I was sickened? A: Certainly in 1951 I quite clearly remember thinking, No, in no circumstances.

Q: Now you had been given that royal post. Did it strike you at the time that because of your past there might be potential embarrassment to the Sovereign? A: I suppose that at the time I assumed that it would never come out. Q: So the question of embarrassment itself never entered your mind? A: I am afraid I simply thought of

this as a job in my own field, important for me to do it. And I think I can do it. Q: You have been given something of a going-over by the security service? A: Yes, anyone who has turned over.

Q: Were you able to tell them anything at all, presumably about your old colleagues? A: Yes, I must certainly have been able, presumably what I did was to select... I am afraid I cannot answer that clearly.

Q: The statement said that you have been interrogated 11 times between 1951 and 1964. What was the nature of those interrogations? Were they full interrogations in the full meaning of that word or were they, as you say, conversations across a drink? A: First of all, the number 11 means nothing to me in this context. Secondly, they were all as far as I can remember certainly mainly immediately in 1951 and the immediate result of that [Burgess and Maclean] going. They were mainly comfortable conversations... it was perfectly plain to me, I was under suspicion, obviously.

Q: Were they by your old colleagues? A: Yes, they were by people whom I had known in London, not closely. Q: You, according to Andrew Boyle's book, at that point when Burgess was under suspicion, I suppose, of a state, I use that word loosely. You were worried, anxious and yet you managed to have got through these interviews, 11 or whatever the number. How did you do that? A: I do not know. Either his account of my health was extremely inaccurate... I do not know, I suppose one develops a sort of resistance.

Q: Now your interrogators were people you knew. Would that suggest, your having worked in the same organization, that they did not think that you were guilty? A: I think some did not and some did. Q: Were you asked about the episode mentioned in the book: A note which was pushed through the United States Embassy door, and so on? A: Totally meaningless to me.

Q: Did you go to Guy's flat after his departure or at any point, to clean things up? A: A little bit. Q: Was this immediately after he went? A: Immediately after, yes.

Q: When you were knighted by the Queen—I know that order is her gift and she does not have to take any advice from the Prime Minister—but this actually put you in a more exposed position than just taking care of her pictures. Did it not strike you that your past might eventually embarrass the Sovereign? After those interrogations? A: Well, I believed wrongly that the master was dead.

Q: And by this time your own sense of yourself, your political views and your relationship with the country had changed to the point where you could accept such an order? A: This is a complete contradiction from the position you took in the 1930s.

Q: Yes, as I have said in my statement, I did not in fact have the option, but I was by then totally alienated from the Russians. I can see other objections, but from that point of view I could see no objection. Q: Well, it would have been a horrendous situation to your attitude towards Russia, but I think what you said earlier to us was that in the 1930s you supported the principles of Marxism. That is not quite the same thing as supporting the principles of Russian state.

Q: I am saying, how much of a change did your political views take? A: A complete change. In 1937, or whenever it was, I thought that Russia was following the true principles of Marxism. By 1951, however, I realized that this was totally false.

Q: But you can still be a Marxist and still not particularly like the Soviet Union? A: Yes, I think I was even coming to be a Marxist then and I found the application of Marxism to my own subject extremely interesting and fruitful, and then gradually realized it was a gross oversimplification.

Q: And you could not accept social realism then? A: No. Q: Did you become entirely reconciled with the British system? A: Yes. Q: There are so many people who come across from the Left to the Right and have become a Roman Catholic or extreme right-wing. Do you fit into that kind of experience... A: No, I think that the British way of life and British constitutionalism, whatever it is, are the best.

Q: Why do you think that? Better than the American? A: Let us not go into that; that is not relevant. Q: Do you then still hold a certain amount of antagonism towards the Americans. This was always said of Burgess? A: Ah, well no. When he came back from Washington in 1951 he was in a state of absolutely manic hatred, fear. I don't know what you can say of his conversation with me. The Americans are going to land us in war and I mean in five years. I was total hysteria.

Q: So the time came when you were approached and you made your confession. Did you decide to confess before you were offered immunity? A: The two things happened absolutely simultaneously. Q: You mean they offered you immunity when they came to discuss it? A: Yes.

Q: Could you just describe in your own terms, how this sequence of events came about? There you are everything is peaceful, now what happens around 1964? A: I think this is something I can not go into in any detail, but they came to me with certain information which had been shown that they knew quite a lot and also freed me

from my loyalty. I think this something I cannot go into. Q: I think you actually have already said on one of the television interviews that you were freed? Philby's defection. Is that the case? Q: I think you also said in a second of those interviews that you were freed by the actions, and I sayings or doings, of one of your friends.

A: I said that, yes. That would be true. Q: By the actions or the sayings? A: Sayings. Q: I am attempting to read it what you are saying that it is something to do with Guy Burgess activities in Moscow.

A: No. Q: Were you concerned to protect another friend of yours who had it so far been implicated? A: I think I cannot go any further. Q: Was the information that security services came to you from information from spies who had defected or from your own former colleagues? A: Not from defectors.

Q: Which means it came from former colleagues? A: Colleagues or friends, yes. Q: Philby had made a general confession in 1953, of course. Can you imagine that Philby's general confession had implicated you to so great an extent that had blown things in the air to some extent? A: I think not.

Q: Can you guess at the source of this information; would it be from Russia, from this country? A: Yes, this is the key area for us, come to you after all these years and say we know and you are free to say what you like. It is natural to us to be interested.

A: Indeed, I think it is also natural for me that I... this is one of the things about which I can be specific. Q: Now the information you were able to give to intelligence, your confession, did they regard as of some importance after those years? A: Well, I think they did. The attitude to it was that although was out of date, it could start a line of research which could lead elsewhere.

Q: May I ask who it was who actually came to you? A: It was a member of MIS. Q: A member of MIS whom you know? A: Whom I had known, but not all well. Q: Did Skardon [an interrogator] come and interrogate you? A: No.

Q: Was he there? A: No, I am not sure. Q: Did Skardon interrogate you? A: No. Q: Was it Hollis who came to you? A: No, I am sorry I cannot remember. I can remember his Christian name. I cannot remember surname. He was one of the people on the investigation team, I think, who was opposed to the general.

Q: The question in most people's minds is, here you are a man who betrayed his country, he admitted you changed your mind afterwards but you had in fact committed that crime. It is strange to many people that it should be given immunity after confession. Was it because the information was all that important? A: I think that was behind it. And I think they felt that I was offered immunity, obviously would cooperate. Whether they thought that I might still be touched and be used as a double agent, I am not sure. If they were wrong.

Q: Did they try to use you as a double agent? A: Well, no, because I had said I was not. Q: Were you offered a choice of what was to happen? To confess a crime and immunity or... A: No, because it was simply a ph statement.

Q: What did you understand now the terms of that immunity? I did understand by it then? A: Well, I understood and understood that means immunity from prosecution.

Q: Not immunity from publicity? A: Well, I do not think legally it is. Q: But you assumed? A: I assumed in fact that the terms of that immunity in MIS. Q: Was this offer made with authority of MIS? A: I was strongly under impression, in fact I was told, it was made under higher authority.

Q: What the immunity? A: Yes. Q: What do you mean by high authority in this instance? A: Well, I would not like to be specific, but my impression was certainly that it was the Prime Minister. I will not confirm it because apparently the Prime Ministers say they do not know may have been misinformed.

Q: Were there negotiations or they came to you with the pack at once? A: It just came like that. Obviously there must have been discussion before, but not with me. Q: There were no negotiations? A: No, no, it was perfectly clear.

Q: Was it put to you that this had done this in similar means and might consider doing it in old instances? A: No. Q: It was simply offered to you a package? A: Yes. Q: They did not say to you that will give you immunity, because of your loyalty to certain people, we might be prepared to the same to them? A: No, I was simply offered immunity there a negotiation or.

Q: Did you understand at the time that the Palace had been informed? A: Well, again this is something about which I am very confused. At the time I did not know either way, but later I was told that it was the Palace that was not one of the Palace had been it was later on that this was clearly my impression. Q: So there was no question of the Private Secretary was told. It was decided on his initiative not to tell the Sovereign? A: Well, not at that time.

Continued on page 5, to

Professor had 'little contact' with Queen

continued from page 4

Q: And since then?

A: Since then I was given to understand that at some stage the Private Secretary was told and whether he told the Queen or not, I do not know.

Q: Which date was that, which year?

A: 1972. I was told this much later.

Q: Mrs Thatcher's statement emphasized that keeping you in our post in the Royal Household was necessary to ensure our cooperation.

A: Did she say that?

Q: Twice. It was in the statement.

A: Well, that was totally unknown to me.

Q: There were not any discussions?

A: No.

Q: Did it not occur to you that our position at the Royal Household might be a bit odd?

A: No one ever suggested that should resign.

Q: Your duties in the Royal Household at that time, clearly, were responsible for pictures and so on? What contact did you have with the Sovereign and people close to her?

A: Very little. My job was essentially concerned with the pictures and I was only in contact if there was some decision to be made about rehanging, redecoration or some matter of policy in connexion with the picture.

Q: Were you upset by the exposure?

A: Well I meant I was upset when the... exposure came. I cannot say that I ever supposed it was a guaranteed thing, but I was quite sure it had been said that I am furious with Mrs Thatcher for breaking her part of the bargain. I have never said any such thing and do not feel it.

Q: It would be nice to have a record.

A: Well, would you like to hear what you have just said?

Q: You must have felt uneasy about your continuing position, is not a comfortable situation to be in knowing M15 have this confession from you and that you were in other people's hands for the rest of your life.

A: Well, no, that was a comforting feeling.

Q: It has been said by one of our friends that since 1964 the couple who know you have felt that you were much more relaxed and much more at ease with the world. Did you feel this?

A: Yes, did I not show this?

Q: Well, that's what they're saying to me.

A: Yes, it was a tremendous relief to get this off my chest and to be able to get it off.

Q: Can we go back to Cambridge for a moment? This distinguished paper of mine reported some time ago that Mr Beves was the fourth man to be involved in this group?

A: That was the most terrible. How it arose I cannot say, but there was absolutely no possibility of it. There was no evidence to show it and the man who wrote the article did not produce any evidence.

Q: And from my knowledge, absolutely none.

A: It did, in fact, come from a very, very good source.

Q: Well, you see there have been theories about this that perhaps there were people in the security services who were unhappy about the course events had taken with you and were anxious to see it brought out into the open. I think that the events of the past few years have shown that there were people anxious to bring it out into the open, for whatever motives. Have you anything to contribute to the state of public knowledge?

A: No, nothing. I think it is perfectly possible. At one moment I thought it was probable, but when Boyle said that my name had been given to him by Goronwy Rees I felt that that was at any rate a sufficient explanation. A sufficient explanation, therefore, one didn't have to suppose a leak from our M15 which frankly I had—I say a leak I mean.

Q: Were there ever any further discussions with the security services with anybody, after 1964 about the prospect of about any contact you might have had with Russians or about any further information you could give?

A: About further information, I mean the our conversations went on quite a long time.

Q: After 1964?

A: From 1964 till, say, 1965 and occasionally I think they came back with some specific query.

Q: Where was this done? Were you actually debriefed in the military sense, or what? Was this done at a series of meetings or?

A: It was usually done in my flat in a series of conversations. Q: Who were you interrogated or debriefed by?

A: Well, I do not think that is probably something; he is someone who is now retired, but I think that's not.

Q: Let us ask you a very general question. It might be slightly embarrassing, but if you look at people such as Burgess and Maclean, not Philby—I knew Philby before he went across in Beirut in 1963—but they were homosexuals.

A: Maclean was hardly.

Q: Other spies have been known to be homosexual; I mean is there anything in the condition of a homosexual that makes him liable for such work, is it because he feels, he has been rejected by society?

A: Well, I think not. I mean in this particular case Philby as you say firmly, quite certainly, was not; Maclean was only very essentially normal—no; I think that obviously in certain other cases blackmail has been used, but I think that has been grossly exaggerated. I think the connection is much slighter than had been suggested and after all there are other means of blackmail.

Q: In that period, between 1951 and 1964, did the Russians in fact make any further approaches to you or did they assume you were now dead?

A: No.

Q: So you had no contact whatever with the Russians since 1951?

A: No.

Q: You never asked to try and resume contact with the Russians?

A: Never.

Q: Has any attempt been made to contact you by another Iron Curtain country on their behalf?

A: No.

Q: Individually?

A: No, never.

Q: Last week I asked a former intelligence man whom I have known over the years how it was that an agent could approach you and suggest to all of you to go back to the Soviet Union and I said well how would he do it, and he said "Well have you read Graham Greene's *The Human Factor*?" and I said "Yes" and he said, "Well, read the last few chapters." You have not read it?

A: I have not.

Q: Well, the last few chapters of the book—mainly, a diplomat—is going to escape, goes to an address which he has been told about and he is taken from there. Was that what happened to you? Did you go to a certain address?

A: What was this occasion?

Q: Yes.

A: No, I went to a certain place.

Q: In this country?

A: Uh huh.

Q: In the countryside?

A: No, in London.

Q: Was this a prearranged place?

A: Yes.

Q: And at this meeting you told them you would not go back with them?

A: Yes.

Q: That is what I told... I said that you told them. Was it one person or several people?

A: One.

Q: Was the situation that you were told to meet a person of a certain description at a certain place in London, a man whose name you were not given?

A: No, it was someone I had been in contact with a long time before.

Q: What did he say when you refused to go back?

A: I am sorry I have put this wrong. I was given orders to go and I then went home and decided not to.

Q: I see so...

A: So I did not formally, yes. I did not say I would not go.

Q: I see, and there was no contact after that? He did not try and get in touch with you?

A: No.

Q: Why did they want you to go?

A: Because I think they thought that I was, not unreasonably, that I was heavily under suspicion and in danger and that if arrested might spill the beans.

Q: You keep using the word orders—you use this all the way through; now in fact your role subsided in 1945, you were a last-spotted at Cambridge, you were then during the war working for the Russians, although this is a military term; were you ever holding some sort of commission from the Russians?

A: No, it is simply in that kind of organization instructions are given fairly firmly.

Q: Did they say to you that if you failed to obey those orders there would be consequences?

A: No.

Q: They did not say that?

A: I think they assumed that I would.

Q: They did not say to you that they would shop you?

A: No.

Q: Of course they were right because eventually you were arrested in effect and you did spill the beans?

A: Yes.

Q: What were the beans that you spilled? Did you name a number of names? Obviously you went over the history of the affair, but I imagine M15 were interested in names of people who might still perhaps be alive?

A: Yes, and more particularly of Russians working.

Q: Were you able to give the names?

A: No, but I could identify them.

Q: You could identify Russians who were working in this country?

A: Yes.

Q: How were you able to identify them if you had no contact with them?

A: They were people I had had contact with at the early active stage, who were, very often, not still here.

Q: But in some cases they were?

A: I do not know the answer to that but I think probably not.

Q: I have forgotten the chronology but could this confession possibly have led to the then Prime Minister ordering all the Russians to leave the country?

A: No, no.

Q: What happened to them? What happened to those Russians you identified, some of whom were in Britain?

A: I think they were no longer in Britain. They were simply identified as being on this job.

Q: Did you identify any British citizens, any of your contemporaries or colleagues? Obviously this must have been an area of great interest to M15.

A: I cannot comment on that.

Q: It has been said over the weekend—there has been lots of speculation about the fact that there might be other people in the same position as yourself; one estimate put the number as several, say up to eight; another estimate has gone as high as 20 or 25. What do you feel about those estimates—that speculation?

A: This is sheer guessing. My guess would be that there must have been a great many more people involved in this. I should think all of them have long since stopped.

Q: Are you still affected by a wish to protect your friends of then and now in this matter? You have been very reserved about some...

A: Well, the problem... I should be, but the problem no longer arises.

Q: Do we take it then that the

friends whose loyalties you have difficulty reconciling with other loyalties are all now dead? Or gone.

Q: Of those then that you talent-spotted in Cambridge in the 1930s, are they all dead?

A: I cannot answer that. I am sorry.

Q: You say there must have been a great many people involved, were these people in public service of some kind?

A: I imagine so and this is largely... I am sorry, I think I must shut up on this because I am partly talking about official information that I have officially. But I think it is common knowledge that the network of one kind or another was considerable and so...

Q: Twenty you say?

A: No, I say 20 has been said—I should think that is probably an exaggeration.

Q: I think you said to television cameras that at Cambridge there was Burgess, Maclean, Philby and yourself, four, and you did not think there were any others?

Q: You do not think there are any others at Cambridge?

A: Not at the time we talked about then.

Q: Because the other thing said over the weekend was that this was not something that was a problem at Cambridge alone but the same could have existed and did exist at Oxford, and at other universities in the 1930s.

A: Yes, well that is something I simply have no knowledge of.

Q: But on your experience would you believe this to be true? This was a very heady time of quite strong political passions.

A: Yes, I mean if one is simply asking me to make a guess—yes.

Q: What are your feelings now about the situation? You have been asked this morning how you feel about being publicly revealed as a traitor? How do you feel?

A: It is a difficult question to answer. Obviously I am deeply upset by it but that is not perhaps an adequate expression, I do feel, and this may seem a preposterous thing to say, I do feel I have acted according to my conscience and I now realize that my original action in the 1930s, which was according to my conscience and I believe throughout, was totally wrong.

Q: Did you have any reason to think that the situation changed in 1972 when, according to Mrs Thatcher, the then Attorney-General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, reviewed your case?

A: No, I think the only thing I know which does bear on this is that I was suddenly rushed to hospital for a very serious operation in which it was thought I very likely would not survive—a cancer operation—and I was told later, and this is my only information on the subject, that that was the moment when some information was passed on; whether to whom, whether to the private secretary, I do not know.

Q: 1972, we are talking about?

A: 1972 and the fact that this happened to coincide with Sir Michael Adeane's retirement as secretary is I think, totally irrelevant.

Q: And the same thing appears to have happened again, I think in 1974?—that the file was brought out.

A: That I know nothing about.

Q: What was the highest level of official in M15 with whom you discussed the whole immunity concession question eventually?

A: Only the man I was talking to.

Q: You never had higher-level personal contact than that?

A: No, no.

Q: Several names have come up in the last few days as one would expect in a situation like this; one is a man called

Thomas Harris, who I believe was a close friend of yours?

A: A great friend of mine. This was one of the most outrageous things in Deacon's book. He made a categorical statement that he had been working for the Russians. He gave no tangible evidence at all. He simply quoted someone who I must call X who had been working for the Russians in Switzerland on internal evidence. First of all I am absolutely certain it is not true—on internal evidence a lot of his story did not hold water, the dates and so on, and this is something obviously he was a name which came up very much in 1951, he was a close friend and indeed later he was a close friend of Philby and a very close friend of Guy's.

Q: And there was another man you mentioned the name of Guy Liddell at one stage. I believe he died some years ago.

A: He died some years ago. Again I should say absolutely certainly not. He was my boss in M15. The evidence that has been shown against him, he was in trouble certainly owing to the fact that he was quite a friend, not nearly as close a friend as has been stated of Philby, and they worked together quite a lot and they did occasionally have a drink together.

Q: Just one final general question: I think perhaps you will agree that under the circumstances you were treated leniently—other people who did other things suffered worse fates. To what do you attribute the leniency with which you were obviously treated?

A: Well, I think that the hope to get as much information out of me as possible, and the belief that if I was treated leniently I should cooperate fully.

Q: Is that because you are a member of the alleged establishment?

A: I cannot say.

HOME NEWS

Reprieved land quango in Wales made £5.3m profit

by John Young
Planning Reporter

In a few days' time a new all-embracing Planning, Local Government and Land Bill will come into the Community Land Act, a largely unpublicized death of one notable quango will arrive as an ironic challenge to the Conservative view that the Act was obstructive and irrelevant.

In the three and a half years since it was established to acquire and dispose of land for development, the Land authority for Wales has made a net profit of about £5,300,000, operating from the tenth floor of a rented office building in Cardiff, with two small local ranches in Wrexham and Caerphilly. It has a staff of fewer than 70, about one tenth of its originally forecast establishment.

Up to 31 March, the authority had acquired a total of 1,428 acres compared with some 3,600 acres in the whole of England, where the task of implementing the Act was left to local councils. According to its chief executive, Mr Ted Howell, it is now in a position to begin repaying its initial borrowings, as well as financing all future purchases from its own resources.

Mr Howell attributes its success mainly to the fact that it is a small centralized body, run on commercial lines and with a single function. In contrast, the Act has failed in England because councils have lacked the time and resources and in many cases, the political will to implement it.

The present Government's view, he says, is that the question of excessive profits can best be dealt with by fiscal means. But that is a negative and deterrent approach, whereas what is wanted is a positive policy to encourage rapid acquisition and disposal.

At first, he recalls, the authority met with considerable suspicion from landowners and builders. "But now," he says, "hardly a day goes past without a call either from a builder in search of land, or an estate agent wanting to make a sale."

"I see the role of this authority as primarily that of a supplier of land. I think it is a valuable service and one that builders and developers will be happy to pay for."

Double oxygen in ship where fire killed eight

from Our Correspondent

A court was told yesterday that there was more than double the usual amount of oxygen in a section of a warship in which eight men were killed by a fire.

Mr Gordon Harding, senior technical inspector of factories, told York Crown Court that the oxygen-enriched atmosphere had been ignited when a workman struck up his arc welding equipment.

Eleven men were working in the bottom deck machinery room of the 3,600-ton missile destroyer HMS Glasgow at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard at Wallsend when the fire broke out in September 1976. Swan Hunter has denied six charges brought under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Telemeter Installation, its subcontractor, has admitted three similar offences.

The trial continues today.

Agency appeal move fails

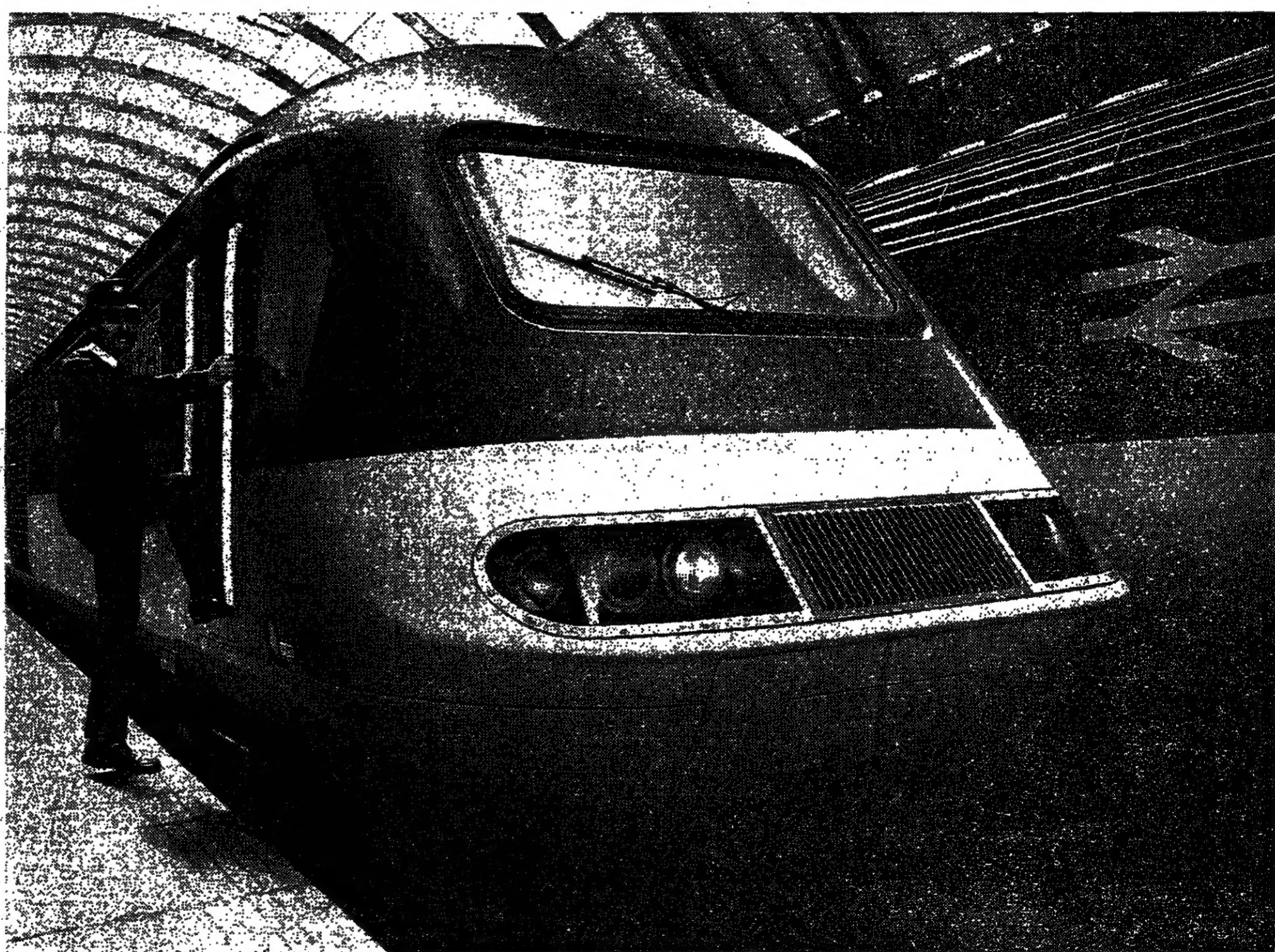
A London travel agency and its chief were refused leave to appeal by the Court of Appeal yesterday, against their convictions under the Trade Descriptions Act.

Westminster Touring Association Ltd. of Parliament Street, Westminster, and Percy George Soutby, aged 75, of Camstock, Dorset, were fined £2,000 and £500 respectively at Knightsbridge Crown Court last March for recklessly making false statements about the provision of accommodation for Holy Year pilgrims in Rome.

Half holiday

To mark the return of *The Times* the 180 pupils at Stoneygate, a private school in Leicester, are to have a half-holiday on Saturday.

The Rev Joe Joseph, the headmaster, said its reappearance was the most exciting event since the Spanish Armada.



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WEST EUROPE

Proll case lawyers say security chief held back evidence

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 20

The head of the West German security service today rejected charges that his department had withheld evidence which might have helped to clear Astrid Proll, the alleged former terrorist of a charge of attempted murder.

Frau Proll's lawyers and two German newspapers have claimed that the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution originally provided the court with evidence from only two of its men who said she shot at them in February 1971 while escaping after they stopped her for an identity check.

They alleged that the department failed to mention statements by two other security men near the scene who said they did not see Frau Proll either shooting or carrying a gun.

Herr Gerhard Raddeemann, a Christian Democrat deputy, has tabled a parliamentary question asking the government to reply to the charges which were made by the newspaper "an almost irreparable scandal".

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry declined to comment on the issue for the present but said that additional security service material had been given to the Frankfurt court trying Frau Proll, and the other two security men had received permission to give evidence.

Dr Richard Meier, President of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, said it was absolutely untrue that the two people's evidence could help in the defence of Astrid Proll.

He said statements collected from the second woman never reached court files because Frau Proll's defence was in 1974 and the trial was suspended before it could be sent off. When she was eventually extradited from Britain the prosecution did not pursue the matter.

A security department official explained that the second woman, although near the scene at the time, could not see what Frau Proll was doing because they were engaged in a gunfight with her companion, Manfred Grabhof, who was later sentenced to life imprisonment.

Dr Johannes Dierks, the presiding judge in Frau Proll's trial, said today that the additional material had been read out in court. Only the verbal evidence of the two witnesses concerned, who are due to be questioned by the court, in mid-December, would show whether it would help to clear Frau Proll, she said.

Herr Heinrich Hannover, one of Frau Proll's lawyers, said today that the two security men who claimed she had opened fire on them had invented the story to protect themselves. The incident had spoiled a carefully laid trap by the security service to catch a larger number of terrorists and they needed to justify themselves.

Dr Meier said he had "no doubt whatever about the truthfulness" of his men. The official who was principally involved was "a good man and absolutely reliable", he said. The lawyer's allegations came in the middle of Frau Proll's second trial which opened after she returned from Britain earlier this year. The first had been suspended when her health broke down after long isolation in jail and she was allowed to go to a clinic in the Black Forest to recover. She escaped to Britain and began a new life away from her former associates under an assumed name.

The charge of attempted murder, for which she could face life imprisonment if convicted, is the most serious levelled against her. She is also accused of driving a getaway car in a bank robbery, and of carrying forged papers.

The bank raid charges rest mainly on statements by a former terrorist accomplice turned informer who has been charged with giving false evidence elsewhere and she is expected to be acquitted.

The Federal Criminal Office has sent five experts to Zurich to help with investigations following the arrest there yesterday of Rolf Clemens Wagner, one of West Germany's most wanted men.

Herr Wagner, aged 35, is believed to have belonged to the hard core of the second generation. He is accused of participating in the kidnapping and murder of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the West German industrialist's president, and the massacre of his four bodyguards in Cologne two years ago.

He was arrested in Yugoslavia in May last year with three others. They were later allowed by the Yugoslav authorities to leave for a country of their choice—where, it is said, they were after West German justice authorities failed to extradite Croatian terrorists to Yugoslavia.

Herr Wagner was captured yesterday at a Zurich tram stop after a bank robbery and gunfight in which an elderly woman was killed and three accomplices escaped.

M Giscard qualifies his tough stand

Continued from page 1

Like completely irreconcilable British and French viewpoints—and a pretty disastrous "summit"—falls into perspective if it is recalled that this London meeting was not intended or expected to reach decisions on Britain's problems with the EEC. Both sides agreed that this could not be done bilaterally, but only at Dublin at the end of this month. To some extent, therefore, what went on in London was a good deal of political posturing, with differences sharply drawn—as they must inevitably be with someone like Mrs Thatcher who not only knows her own mind but speaks it out bluntly—but without any immediately disastrous consequences either for Franco-British relations or for the Community.

This is apparent if one reads between the lines of both leaders' statements. The French President's toughness on principle, which struck French journalists as unusual for him, was in fact qualified in three respects.

First, he admits that there is a problem for Britain—and the domestic political dimension of it is undoubtedly clearer to him now, after the talks. Second, France views this problem sympathetically, and is prepared to do something to achieve a solution limited in scope and time. Third, France is determined that there should be no Franco-British confrontation on the budget or lamb.

The less satisfactory corollary of this from Mrs Thatcher's point of view, is that the French President is not prepared, officially at least, to act as an advocate of Britain's

cause, or as an honest broker between Britain and its other partners in the EEC.

"The Community has already come up against similar difficulties in the past and generally speaking, solutions have been found, and the difficulties overcome," he said, however. It would not be the first time it came to the verge of disaster.

Perhaps it would not be an exaggeration to say that M Giscard d'Estaing understood why Mrs Thatcher has to indulge on this occasion in the same kind of brinkmanship that France did in 1965, with its tactics of the "empty chair" over the common agricultural policy.

David Spenser, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes: Though M Giscard d'Estaing and Mrs Thatcher met, as she said at the end of the President's visit,

tête à tête it was clearly not eye to eye.

The Prime Minister, voicing her belief in the principle of "equity" among partners in the Community, said that what was required was an act of political will. M Giscard d'Estaing, while expressing his "understanding" of the British positions, insisted throughout on the essential need to comply with Community regulations. It was as if a silver fork was prodding at a bronze bridge—no give whatever, though underneath it all perhaps a hope of something sweeter to come.

Speaking to the press, M Giscard d'Estaing conceded that France understood the British position. Though France was at present in a state of near balance on the budget, in 1980 it would be a net contributor itself, not a beneficiary.

Mrs Thatcher was quick to explain that the Community was not designed to effect the transfer of real resources—in the case of the next financial year a sum of £1,000m—from one member to another. Any method could be used that was satisfactory, in applying the Community rules, to rectify the inequity of the British payments, she said. What was at stake was the political will, not the technical details.

She would not accept "half a loaf", in the shape of a reduction in the British contribution by a half, and a pledge to reform the common agricultural policy. "I do not reject anything, I just ask for more," she said.

"There is far too much arithmetic and everyone gets blinded by it," Political Life would not continue nationally or internationally, unless rules were

adapted to changing circumstances.

The argument seemed to be reversed when the French attitude to the recent judgment by the European court that France must accept lamb imports from Britain, was called into question. Asked if he accepted this ruling, M Giscard d'Estaing replied that there was no regulation covering this product when the community was originally set up. What France was demanding, was the application of the rules in the spirit of the Rome treaty, which provided for the organization of a market in this respect, too.

The main result of the Franco-British meeting, therefore, appears to be that each side has explained its view to the other with more precision and probably more emphatically than could be done in written diplomatic exchanges.

Mr Gromyko fails in Madrid aims

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Nov 20

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who is visiting Spain, appears to have failed to convince the Spanish Government of the sincerity of Soviet wranglings for this country to remain non-aligned.

He had barely left the Moncloa Palace today after spending an hour and a quarter with Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, before the state-run Radio Nacional prominently reported that Tass news agency had not mentioned the key points of the speech delivered by Señor Mariano Ovejuna, the Spanish Foreign Minister, at last night's banquet in honour of the visitor from the Kremlin.

Those points were Spain's conviction that it belongs in the Western world and Señor Ovejuna's insistence that the time has come to progress from mere condemnation of terrorism to an active commitment for international cooperation in a concerted effort to wipe it out.

During the dinner, the Soviet minister said bluntly: "If you want to put missile on our doorstep, don't expect the Soviet Union to remain indifferent."

The remark was interpreted as part of the Soviet effort to dissuade Spain from joining Nato. It referred to American plans to replace some older nuclear missiles, now based in western Europe, with new medium-range missiles in those Nato countries which accept the change.

Replying to Señor Ovejuna who had made the point that Spain

"feels itself to be part of the Western world", Mr Gromyko said: "The politics of an escalation of the arms race has just developed with regard to Europe. There is an attempt to load the territories of Western European states, Nato members, with medium-range nuclear missiles."

"And this is happening in the context of the recent peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union, which not only make it possible to avoid the expansion of the arms race in Europe but even make it definitely possible to turn it back."

After calling on the Prime Minister today, Mr Gromyko visited Toledo and then returned to the capital to sign previously negotiated agreements.

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 20

The split and divisions in both the main streams of French politics were brought vividly into the open today when the National Assembly debated three motions of censure against the Government.

All three were doomed to failure before even a vote was taken because at the time they could hope for support from only the combined forces of the Communists and Socialists who between them can muster only 201 of the 248 votes needed to defeat the Government.

The Socialists had decided, however, to make the move so as to show up the lack of cohesion in the Government and to demonstrate how far apart were the policies of M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, from those of the numerically strongest party in his ruling coalition, the Gaullists.

The Gaullists had in fact made the censure motions inevitable by refusing to vote in favour of the part of the Government's budget on the raising of revenue because the Government would not deal with the deficit of 2,000m francs (£222m).

But they would not vote the Government out of office because, according to M Bernard Pons, their secretary-general: "It is not the moment when our country is fighting against very grave economic difficulties to add a political crisis to those difficulties. But we have the right and the duty to say that the management of our society is bad, badly bad, and that it is not even being led."

The parties of the left were thus given the chance of tabling their motions of censure. The move was the first in the provincial mining town of Aljoste, south of Lisbon.

Similar claims of destruction by the Democratic Alliance were made by the Workers' Popular Democratic Union Party (UDP).

Senior Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist leader, has come forward to defend communism as being constructive. He said that the Catholicism, at a party meeting in the northern cathedral city of Braga, an important stronghold of the church, Senior Cunhal replied to criticisms of the Portuguese bishops who have warned Catholics not to vote for Communist candidates.

"Religious liberty and respect for religious beliefs and practices are on the party programme", he claimed.

Debate shows split in both French camps

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Clashes in Portuguese election

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, Nov 20

The Portuguese parliamentary election has warmed up during the past few days with clashes between political factions. Polling day is December 2.

The Democratic Alliance of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, a 30-year-old propaganda motorcade was attacked by left-wing rowdies near Alcochete, 30 miles from Lisbon.

They injured party members and destroyed the election site. The Alliance also claimed that Communists attacked and injured Christian Democrats when they were posing up electioneering posters in a Lisbon suburb and broke up a political meeting in the provincial mining town of Aljoste, south of Lisbon.

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Amoco Cadiz claim costs over \$5m

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

France's huge claim for damages after the Amoco Cadiz oil spill off Brittany now looks likely to be settled at a fraction of the original total of more than \$2,000m (\$250m).

Protracted litigation in the courts has already meant legal costs of \$5m to \$10m, not far short of the total cost of the previous largest claim in marine history, that involving the Torrey Canyon.

The American hearings have also shown that the most serious commercial and environmental effects of the sinking of the big crude-oil carrier in March last year were far less serious than claimed.

The main claimants, each seeking \$300m to \$350m in the American courts, are the French Government, the local authorities or communes, the hotel and tourist industry, the fishermen, the oyster producers, the seaweed industry and the ferries.

But an analysis of the actual damage suffered by these various groups shows it to be far less than claimed, and pos-

sibly altogether less than a tenth of the total.

The French Government has certainly incurred substantial costs in mobilising and equipping troops for the clean-up; on chemicals and hire of transport including British naval vessels; and on compensation to local authorities and hoteliers from a special fund set up for the purpose.

But the fishing and seaweed industries seem to have suffered little loss. The seaweed reached record levels the year of the spill, the only effect of which was to postpone the harvest three weeks while surface oil was cleared. Fishing, too, was good, though fishermen say that because of an unaccountable skin ailment more fish than usual had to be thrown away.

The tourist and hotel industry, according to the French Government, lost 62 per cent of foreign visitors to Brittany and 32 per cent of French. The effect was patchy, with cheap and luxury hotels less affected than those of medium price. But the ferries carried more traffic

fact that the Government had decided to force through its budget by engaging its responsibility on it. M Mitterrand said: "The main danger of the monetary functions has been reduced to nothing more than the military act of a soldier putting his rifle finger down the seam of his trousers."

Mr Robert Ballanger, the leader of the Communist group in the Assembly, underlined the difference between his party's approach and that of the Socialists. His party attacked the enlargement of the EEC and called for the introduction of a six per cent tax in a way totally unacceptable to Socialist thinking.

Like M Mitterrand, however, he rallied against the fact that the Government had chosen a procedural device to force through the budget, rather than let it run the risk of falling because the Gaullists opposed it.

M Claude Lippé, the Gaullist spokesman, said that his party's stand was a warning to the Government, but that it was not the time to censure the Government. "This would be a 'positive' solution of replacement."

His rather flat speech was in marked contrast to that of M Michel Debré, the former Prime Minister and still one of the most eloquent speakers in the Gaullist party. He warned M Barre that he was not on the path to victory.

Answering the debate, M Barre—who cancelled his visit to London for the Franco-British summit to be present at the debate—said that the latest election (for the European Parliament in June) had left the Government with nothing to fear from a majority verdict of the people. It was different motions showed that the Union of the Left could not be a parliamentary union.

He kept his strongest words for the Gaullists, however, who, he said, had subjected him to a cross-fire ever since he took office. Turning to M Debré, M Barre said: "If there is a rule by which one should not criticise one's successors."

The fury of the Gaullists with the Government was demonstrated by the fact that Joël Le Tac, their deputy for Montmartre, announced to the press during the afternoon that he would go against his party's instructions and actually vote for the censure motion.

OVERSEAS

Zimbabwe peace army rejected by Britain

By David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Zimbabwe Rhodesia constitutional conference, from choppy waters yesterday when Britain rejected most of the Patriotic Front's proposals for a ceasefire, including the idea of mobilising a large Commonwealth force to force observance of the ceasefire.

The Rhodesian raids in Zambia and President Banda's attack on British policy further upset already strained atmosphere.

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, immediately sent a message to President Kaunda expressing British concern at the latest Salisbury attack. Zambia, British concern, link with the hope that all parties to the conflict would exert restraint and avoid any action which might prejudice a successful conclusion to the conference, has also been conveyed to the Salisbury delegation.

Referring to a report from Radio Zimbabwe, quoting Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, on a liberation force to intensify the war, the British spokesman at the conference said the was always a risk of escalation. "That is why the British Government is sending a message to bring the negotiations for a ceasefire to an end, as do very soon," the spokesman told a press briefing.

He noted that the Government had called for a ceasefire when it sent out its first communiqué in August, a regretted that only one side felt able to accept it at that stage.

Despite the Patriotic Front's repeated accusations of British bias in showing bias a refusing to accept the Patriotic Front's proposals in detail were in yesterday, first between British officials and the Salisbury delegation, and then with a Patriotic Front.

In an opening statement the plenary session yesterday, Sir Ian Gilmour, departing Lord Carrington, who is attending the talks with President Giscard d'Estaing, said that the British Government was prepared to accept the Patriotic Front's proposals which were unlikely to provide a basis for agreement or for a ceasefire which would in practice be observed.

In particular, he said that the British Government did not accept that it was practicable to achieve a peace-keeping force which would actually force the ceasefire.

Responsibility for the observance of the ceasefire must rest in the first instance with the responsible forces on the ground, he said. Nor did Britain believe it was practicable to create a new police force during the interim period.

On the question of demarcation, Sir Ian told the Patriotic Front that he did not see it would be possible to reach agreement on the basis of allocation of areas to the control of one side or the other. This would prolong the ceasefire indefinitely, and was contrary to the British idea of a territory coming under a control of the British Government.

Replying to this statement questions could not be decided by Mr Mugabe, who said the in such a "hazardous" manner, the Patriotic Front had tabled certain proposals, which must be discussed one by one. What the British Government was suggesting was a neutral, full, or true, which he feared would lead to further chaos.

Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, writes: "The Patriotic Front's demand for Commonwealth peace-keeping force is a serious threat strong" for Zimbabwe Rhodesia was being viewed with favour by senior officers at the Ministry of Defence in London yesterday.

Contingency plans for a modest force of 500 to 600 are already advanced, and these are already causing problems for an Army overstretched by a commitment to the United Kingdom plan, Britain would supply more than half of its monitoring troops.

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Dentures sent to minister

Paris, Nov 20—Mauri Luchini, who is serving a 1 year term for robbery has sent his dentures to the Minister of Justice in an attempt to have his case reviewed.

In September, he cut off a finger tip and sent it to a Minister. He threatened to continue sending macabre items until he got his way. But he said they would be "more or more fleshy," he said in a letter—Agence France-Press.

China border accord

Katmandu, Nepal, Nov 20—Nepal and China signed a protocol formalising the 69 mile border between Tibet and Nepal.

Deflationary measure

Jakarta, Nov 20—A man running a tyre repair shop was sentenced to a seven-month jail term for scattering nails on the street around his shop.

Policeman shot

Parma, Nov 20—A policeman was shot dead outside a bar near Parma in northern Italy while pursuing two suspected bank robbers.

Q: Where is the nearest Assisted Area to London and the South East?

A. Corby, Northants.

Britain's newest Assisted Area.*

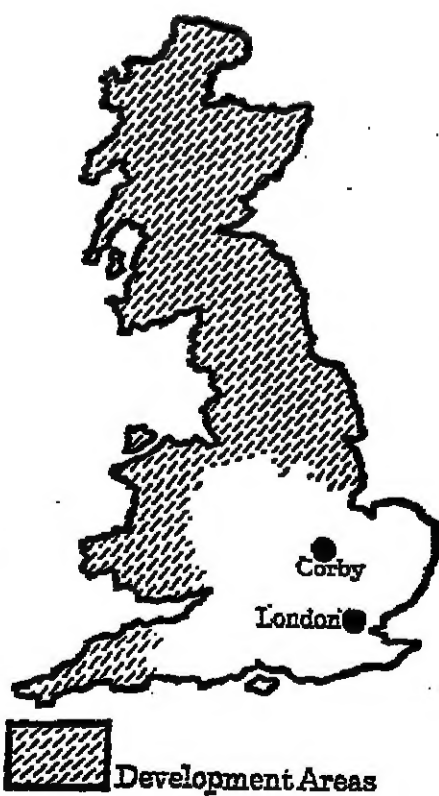
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Corby Development Corporation

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05366 3535

OVERSEAS

Iran determined to try hostages unless Shah is handed back

Tehran, Nov. 20.—Ayatollah Khomeini declared today that the remaining 49 American hostages in the occupied United States Embassy here will be released as spies unless President Carter returns the Shah to Iran.

In a statement broadcast by Iranian radio, he said: "The hostages will remain in the next few days and after that Carter will understand what a mistake he has made."

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians are preparing to march on the capital and other cities tomorrow to mark the start of the fifteenth century in the Islamic calendar. The marches are expected to be the biggest in American history.

Mr. Khomeini's statement came as the Iranian occupation of the embassy on November 4.

Mr. Khomeini's statement today appeared to be a further challenge to the United States, which has said that the hostages "should be tried and punished."

A few hours before it was issued, the statement released 10 more Americans, who were taken to Europe before they left Tehran, one of whom said remaining hostages were in greater danger than he was.

Mr. Khomeini, who asked to explain the danger, said: "The six black men and four women were flown to Frankfurt, West Germany, via Paris and driven to the United States."

He said the men and women were taken to a hospital in Wiesbaden for medical examinations and questioning by United States officials. They had an "official" reason for being taken to the hospital.

Mr. Khomeini said the men and women were taken to the hospital because they were "black" and "American" and "hostages" who were being "tried and punished."

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Tehran students release messages to embassy

Secret papers show Washington failed to heed warnings

From Robert Fisk, Tehran, Nov. 20

In years to come, historians may question America's response to the turmoil in Iran over the past 12 dramatic months as earnestly as they now examine the United States' role in Vietnam or Cambodia.

Did the American Government realise the depth of opposition to the Shah within his armed forces? Should the Americans have further supported the Islamic government of Mr. Mehdi Bazargan? Did Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, fail to comprehend the potential Iranian reaction to the Shah's arrival in the United States?

A day, incomplete but none the less fascinating insight into these questions has been provided by a set of photocopied documents which Iranian students occupying the American Embassy in Tehran have been making public here. The papers—all of which are genuine—do not disclose any evidence of spying by embassy staff. Yet they provide valuable evidence about American foreign policy towards Iran over the past year.

It is clear from a telegram which the embassy in Tehran received from Washington on July 26 this year that the Shah's future had been a regular subject of discussion in the State Department. The telegram was signed by Mr. Peter Tarnoff, Mr. Vance's special assistant. He told the embassy that the State Department was "again considering how to respond to the Shah's return to Iran."

Regarding establishing residence for himself, the Shah, his family in the United States, Mr. Tarnoff said that the State Department was "again considering how to respond to the Shah's return to Iran."

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Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, in buoyant mood at the opening of the Arab League summit in Tunis.

Use of 'oil weapon' urged at Arab League summit

Tunis, Nov. 20.—An Arab League summit conference opened here today with a call from Iraq for concerted economic action, including use of the "oil weapon," against countries which support Israel.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq also signalled support for the continued presence of Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

Those who support Zionist aggression must understand that their interests are not safe in our region so long as they continue that support," the Iraqi President told the assembled Arab leaders.

He said the Arab states possessed weapons—"among which I mention oil"—and suggested that the time had come for a special summit on the economic strategy of the Arab states.

However, Iraq's earlier calls for an Arab economic summit have been blocked by opposition from other League members, including Saudi Arabia.

Fifteen of the League's members were represented by their highest-ranking leaders at the opening of the summit conference.

After speeches by President Hussein, who spoke in his role as conference chairman, by rotation, and President Sadat of Egypt, the conference adjourned. Further meetings will be held behind closed doors.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a full member of the Arab League. Mr. Yassir Arafat, its chairman, was among the leaders at today's opening session in the main hall of the Tunis International Conference Centre.

This week's summit is the first since President Sadat signed Egypt's peace treaty with Israel last March, prompting the League to move its headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.

Israel food prices soar as budget takes effect

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov. 20

Prices of many basic foodstuffs throughout Israel rose by up to 115 per cent this morning as the result of a sudden cutback in government subsidies.

The move was the key section of a harsh new economic package designed to halt runaway inflation which at an annual rate of over 100 per cent now ranks among the highest in the world.

There was angry reaction in the supermarkets and on the streets as the price rises were imposed. Cheese went up by 115 per cent, milk by 112 per cent, butter by 100 per cent, cooking oil by 80 per cent, and a standard loaf of bread was increased by 43 per cent.

To add to the atmosphere of despondency, Israeli radio later confirmed the press speculation that the prices of most public services would soon be sharply increased.

In addition to the withdrawal of food subsidies, the government has introduced a credit squeeze, a freeze on all public building including hospitals, a 10 per cent levy on all imported goods, and a reduction of 17,500 public service jobs.

Although it had been generally accepted for some weeks that severe measures were vital to the survival of Mr. Begin's floundering coalition, the severity of the package surprised political observers.

Within hours of the price rises taking effect, streets in some of the poorer areas of Jerusalem were sealed off by members of the extreme left-wing Black Panthers Group, who set fire to tyres.

Moshe Braverman, writing from Tel Aviv, said the move was a sign of no confidence in Mr. Begin's government for its decision to expel the troublesome Mayor of Nablus, who was easily defeated in the Knesset in Jerusalem today.

The fate of the Mayor, Mr. Bassam Shaka, will be determined on Thursday when the Israeli Supreme Court hears his appeal against the government's decision.

US seeks Security Council help

From Patrick Bragan, Washington, Nov. 20

The 13 hostages freed from Iran will be kept in Wiesbaden, West Germany, for a few more days, in a period the State Department has described as "decompression". They may be home for Thanksgiving, on Thursday, when the press would be able to interview them.

The period of recuperation, though described as a measure intended for their own good, clearly mainly meant to help the remaining hostages. When the last 10 to be released were graded before the mob and the television cameras in Tehran on Monday, they gave a sufficiently harrowing description of the conditions of their detention to inflame yet further public opinion here.

When they are entirely free to express themselves, their descriptions will presumably be all the more graphic and inflammatory. The White House has attempted to persuade television networks to play down coverage of American reactions to the events in Tehran, for fear that film of a riot here in which Iranians are mistreated would be shown in Iran and endanger the hostages.

United States representatives in New York are discussing with other members of the United Nations Security Council the possibility that that body might issue a denunciation of the proposal to put the hostages on trial for espionage.

Like diplomats from every country, including Iran, members of the Security Council believe devoutly in diplomatic immunity.

Considerations of their countries' relations with Iran might cause some of them to hesitate to express their beliefs too strongly, and the Americans are trying to phrase a resolution to meet their diplomatic concerns while making the main point, that there should be no trial of the hostages.

They should be released, sufficiently firmly. The Security Council unanimously called on Iran to release the hostages 10 days ago and has rejected a request by Iran for debate on United States policies, also unanimously.

The White House issued a statement yesterday calling the proposed trial "a further flagrant violation of human rights, religious precepts and international law."

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department, which has been guarding Iranian assets frozen in United States banks by President Carter a week ago, has discovered that those assets amount to about \$8,000m (\$4,000m) not \$5,000m as originally estimated. About half the total is held in foreign branches of United States banks.

The State Department orders against Iranian assets have been issued. Only a few dozen people are involved so far, but more will follow.

The Immigration Service, which handles such matters, is faced with the difficulty of distinguishing between Iranians who support the Ayatollah and those, supporters of the former Shah, who might be classified as political refugees.

There are also legal problems in singling out one category of illegal immigrants (those whose visas have expired, or who have worked here, which is illegal) and not others. The constitution prohibits such discrimination.

Many Sikhs who live and work abroad might bear the Golden Temple prayers service direct has long been nursed by India's Sikhs.

They number only just over 10 million (37.1 census), but they are a rich and go-ahead community based largely in the Punjab which, thanks to the "green revolution" they have made into India's most prosperous state.

Installing the private transmitter at present heard only locally was quickly financed by the prosperous faithful and, apparently with the complicity of the Sikh religious authorities.

The Punjab state Government chose to look the other way when the transmitter was ceremoniously carried into the Golden Temple in full view of a congregation early this month.

Radio Golden Temple is part of a sideshow in India's immensely varied political subculture which has been progressing for months as central Government authority declined after the ruling coalition Janata Party broke up.

Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, the Punjab's Chief Minister, who enjoyed Janata Party support in the North Indian state, has had to wage a subtle politico-religious battle with opponents who have tried to bring him down with fundamentalist theocratic arguments based on Sikhism.

While Mr. Badal has taken his stand on India's secular constitution, they have been denouncing him in the name of religious sanctification.

A major crisis almost stopped Punjab's life in September when the Chief Minister was summoned to present himself before the Akal Takht, the Sikhs' supreme religious council.

Learned religious debates took place as to whether the politician was obliged to attend as a "good Sikh". If he defied the order, issued by the three highest priests, he risked an alienation from the Sikh rank and file, which could have been fatal to his career, particularly in rural Punjab.

The desire to install a powerful transmitter so that the

proposed trial "a further flagrant violation of human rights, religious precepts and international law."

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department, which has been guarding Iranian assets frozen in United States banks by President Carter a week ago, has discovered that those assets amount to about \$8,000m (\$4,000m) not \$5,000m as originally estimated. About half the total is held in foreign branches of United States banks.

The State Department orders against Iranian assets have been issued. Only a few dozen people are involved so far, but more will follow.

The Immigration Service, which handles such matters, is faced with the difficulty of distinguishing between Iranians who support the Ayatollah and those, supporters of the former Shah, who might be classified as political refugees.

There are also legal problems in singling out one category of illegal immigrants (those whose visas have expired, or who have worked here, which is illegal) and not others. The constitution prohibits such discrimination.

Many Sikhs who live and work abroad might bear the Golden Temple prayers service direct has long been nursed by India's Sikhs.

They number only just over 10 million (37.1 census), but they are a rich and go-ahead community based largely in the Punjab which, thanks to the "green revolution" they have made into India's most prosperous state.

Installing the private transmitter at present heard only locally was quickly financed by the prosperous faithful and, apparently with the complicity of the Sikh religious authorities.

The Punjab state Government chose to look the other way when the transmitter was ceremoniously carried into the Golden Temple in full view of a congregation early this month.

Radio Golden Temple is part of a sideshow in India's immensely varied political subculture which has been progressing for months as central Government authority declined after the ruling coalition Janata Party broke up.

Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, the Punjab's Chief Minister, who enjoyed Janata Party support in the North Indian state, has had to wage a subtle politico-religious battle with opponents who have tried to bring him down with fundamentalist theocratic arguments based on Sikhism.

While Mr. Badal has taken his stand on India's secular constitution, they have been denouncing him in the name of religious sanctification.

A major crisis almost stopped Punjab's life in September when the Chief Minister was summoned to present himself before the Akal Takht, the Sikhs' supreme religious council.

Learned religious debates took place as to whether the politician was obliged to attend as a "good Sikh". If he defied the order, issued by the three highest priests, he risked an alienation from the Sikh rank and file, which could have been fatal to his career, particularly in rural Punjab.

The desire to install a powerful transmitter so that the

OUR NEW SAVINGS BANK FOR ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS.

Every day more and more people are helping the British Glass Container Industry to save energy and raw materials. How?

By responding to a simple, but innovative, appeal by the industry to recycle bottles and jars.

It's called the Bottle Bank scheme. In only two years the industry has collected over 21 million used glass containers. Crushed them. Mixed them with other raw materials and re-melted them to make new glass containers. Making a considerable saving in raw materials and, more important, energy.

EVERYONE BENEFITS

The scheme directly benefits local authorities and their communities.

There is less waste to dispose of, giving a saving in costs and refuse tipping space.

And since the glassworks pay a guaranteed price for every tonne of glass returned to them, what used to cost local authorities money can now make them a profit. Which can be used to help buy kidney machines for the local hospital, or spent on other community projects.

In two years public response to "Save at the Bottle Bank" has developed into the regular habit of saving glass for thousands of people. In fact response has been so great that the glass industry, in co-operation with local authorities, is now expanding the scheme to 200 towns and cities.

Setting a target to recycle 150,000 tonnes of glass a year.

This will reduce the demand for virgin raw materials which, although plentiful in Britain, entails considerable quarrying activities.

But, more important, the use of recycled glass—or cullet as it is called—also reduces the fuel consumption of the glass-making furnaces.

So Britain saves 4,000,000 gallons of oil each year

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Bottle Bank scheme is one of the ways in which the glass industry is looking to the future. Important, but only a part of a major programme of investment.

For example: continuous research into glass melting technology has reduced average fuel consumption by 18% since 1970.

Lightweight bottles such as the daily "pinta," continue to be developed, using 25% less glass, but retaining all the strength of their predecessors. Helping to reduce material and energy requirements accordingly.

NEW ECONOMIC USES FOR CULLET

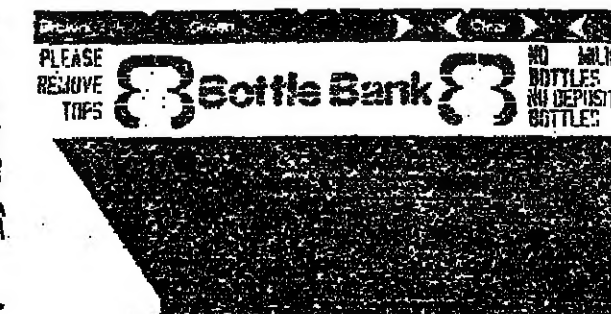
There will always be some parts of Britain which are too far away from the glassworks for recycling to be economical. So the industry has sponsored research into new uses for waste glass. As a result floor tiles and surfacing and cladding materials, containing 75% crushed glass, have been developed. Providing yet another outlet for people's empties. Proving that just because glass is inexpensive, that's no reason to waste it.

RECYCLABLE OR RETURNABLE

All glass can be recycled time and time again, without any quality loss.

But this is not to forget the returnable bottle which frequently offers great economy and efficient use of resources. Over 50% of packaged beer and soft drinks are sold in refillable deposit bottles. The daily doorstep delivery of milk owes its continued existence to the returnable glass bottle.

But by recycling the non-returnables, the glass container industry is saving raw materials, more, and energy.



BANK ON GLASS FOR THE FUTURE.

Glass Manufacturers Federation, 19 Portland Place, London W1N 4BH.

PORT

Motor rallying

Mikkola sees his way clear, despite the fog

By Peter Waymark

Hannu Mikkola increased his lead in the second year of the RAC Rally for the second year in succession by maintaining his five-minute overnight lead as the cars entered Wales yesterday. The final leg of the four-day, 1,700 mile event. The winner will be declared at Chester this morning.

Despite fog, which made the direction arrows difficult to see, and wet, slippery surfaces, the leading cars all held their positions. Once again the Ford Escort dominated the field and looked set to record their eighth success in a row in their last appearance as a works team.

Behind Mikkola were his Escort team colleagues, fellow Finns, Ari Vatanen and Russell Brooks, of Britain. Tony Pond held fourth place in the relatively untried Lotus-powered Talbot Monteverde, despite a punctured front tyre, and he was followed by three more Escort drivers, Malcolm Wilson, John Taylor and Roger Clark.

Marking Allen in the fancied Lotus-powered Talbot Monteverde, caught up a few seconds but was still in tenth place. He had led the rally in his early stages on Sunday but dropped down to twenty-sixth after going off the road in the Daltby Forest in Yorkshire.

By last night the original field of 175 cars had been reduced to 94 but apart from Sig Marmorek, who was forced to retire early on Monday when his Saab Turbo developed engine problems, the leading drivers were still in contention.

The cars will negotiate the remaining Welsh stages this morning. The last stage, from Caerdydd to Caerdydd, is the longest and the most difficult. It is a 100-mile stage with 100 corners.

Leads after 3rd special stage: 1. Mikkola (Ford Escort) 5:00.00, 2. Vatanen (Ford Escort) 5:05.00, 3. Brooks (Ford Escort) 5:10.00, 4. Pond (Ford Escort) 5:15.00, 5. Wilson (Ford Escort) 5:20.00, 6. Taylor (Ford Escort) 5:25.00, 7. Clark (Ford Escort) 5:30.00, 8. Allen (Lotus Monteverde) 5:35.00, 9. Marmorek (Ford Escort) 5:40.00, 10. Marmorek (Ford Escort) 5:45.00.

Snooker
Thorne lets his early advantage slip

William Thorne and Patrick Harwood, both of whom were leading at the end of their early session in the Coral UK professional snooker championship second round matches at Preston yesterday.

Thorne, from Leicester, let slip a 3-0 advantage against Roy Anderson, who won four frames to three of the last four frames to pull up to 3-4. Harwood led the firstman, Jackie Rea, 4-3, but at one stage he was 6-1 down, making a break of 78 in the fourth frame.

Rea had recovered to reach the second round after being 3-0 down in his first round match against Southampton's Bernard Bennett. He won four frames to one of the last four frames to pull up to 3-4. Harwood led the firstman, Jackie Rea, 4-3, but at one stage he was 6-1 down, making a break of 78 in the fourth frame.

Equestrianism
Kilcassell to be Meade's second string

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris
The British Show Jumping Association announced yesterday that the following six riders are competing in the international show jumping competition at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which begins on Friday, November 23, under the management of Ronnie Macgregor-Morris.

The six riders are: John Brown, Graham Fletcher, Mark Brown, John Whitaker, the Nations Cup will count towards the British Show Jumping Association's championship in 1980. Britain has won the Presidents Cup for 1979 with a record score of 100 points.

George Wimpey, who bought the Olympic gold medal winner, triple Olympic champion, and champion of the seven-year-old Irish horse, Kilcassell, from Mrs Pamela Macgregor-Morris, is a second string for Meade.

Racing

Venture to Cognac ready to take first step on ladder to stardom

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent
Venture to Cognac, that intently promising six-year-old trained at Lambourn by Fred Winter, is by far the most interesting prospect at Kempton Park this afternoon. Acclaimed by one of the best trainers in the country, he has been selected as the favourite for the unimpressive annual review, Chasers and Hurdles (Portway Press), Venture to Cognac will start a new phase of his career when he runs in the Flyover Novices Hurdle, a race that his stable won 12 months ago with Ramblitz.

This will be Venture to Cognac's first race over fences and if all goes well it will be the first of a series of races that will see him take his first steps on the ladder to stardom. He is a half brother to the champion hurdler, the 10-year-old who was ridden again this season when he was last season when he won the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle at Ascot last Friday.

Venture to Cognac's jump over the fences where he has been schooled both last spring and this autumn has been good without being flamboyant. That assures him that he should be a good hurdler. He has been ridden by three different trainers, notably Western Rose, Driscoll, Kyo and Shillars.

Today Venture to Cognac's owner, the late Mrs. J. J. Jones, who has a good record at Kempton, has been with him there since he was a yearling. The training driver was still in contention. The car will negotiate the remaining Welsh stages this morning.

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Kempton Park programme
1.245 UBRIDGE HURDLE (Handicap: £700: 21m 100yd)
1.250 MOTORWAY HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 2m)
1.45 WIMBORNE CHASE (Handicap: £1,350: 3m)
2.15 FLYOVER CHASE (Handicap: £1,200: 21m)
2.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)
3.15 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 2m)
3.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)
4.15 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 2m)
4.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)
5.15 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 2m)
5.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)

Worcester programme
1.0 HUNTERS HURDLE (Div 1: Novices: £650: 21m)
1.30 OAKS CHASE (Handicap: £998: 2m)
2.0 FISHERMAN'S HURDLE (Handicap: £1,026: 3m)
2.30 SPORTSMAN'S CHASE (Handicap: £1,040: 3m)
3.0 STALKER OPPORTUNITY CHASE (Handicap: £562: 21m)
3.30 HUNTERS HURDLE (Div 1: Novices: £541: 21m)
3.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)
4.15 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 2m)
4.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)
5.15 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 2m)
5.45 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 3m)

Kempton Park selections
By Our Racing Correspondent
1.245 UBRIDGE HURDLE: 1.15 Shave RH. 1.45 Sherman. 2.15 VENTURE TO COGNAC is specially recommended. 2.45 Knockaroo. 3.15 North Yard.

Worcester selections
By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 Willow Brook. 1.30 Sea Lane. 2.0 Woodvale. 2.30 Double Negative. 3.0 Mr. Marshbridge. 3.30 Kaitia.

Leicester results
1.00 (11.9) 3.0 HUNTERS HURDLE (Handicap: £560: 21m)
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Winter raid takes Devon by storm

Fred Winter and David Baron monopolized the programme at Devon and Exeter yesterday, winning five of the seven prizes between them. Winter was successful with all three of his runners—French Caron, Stoc Yarn and Hecare, all ridden by different jockeys, to take his score to 22. Baron saddled a double with Justin and Nescio, both ridden by Paul Leach, to take his score to 10, equalling his total for the whole of last season.

Stoc Yarn, running under rules for the first time, started 9.4 favourite for the Amateur Riders' Novices Hurdle, and won by eight lengths from Bishopwood. Stoc Yarn is owned and trained by Nick Sherwood and was ridden by his son Oliver, the partnership connected with Venture to Cognac.

Father Delaney, who fell at the first fence at Wetherby earlier this month, took the featured Best Jockey Handicap Steeplechase, a lengths from Don't Forget at Ayr yesterday. Cancellor, the 5.1 favourite, had an ugly looking fall at the second fence but his rider, Colin Hawkins, was able to report that the 10-year-old was none the worse as he returned to the weighing room.

John O'Neill, who rode Father Delaney, completed a double and brought his score for the season to 37 when he took the Montgomerie Handicap Hurdle on Silver Shadow, a 1.1 favourite, the best Crown Court by threequarters of a length in the Dundonald Amateur Riders Handicap Steeplechase.

STATE OF GOING (official): Kempton Park, good; Worcester, good; Taunton, good; Towcester, good.

THE ARTS

Detroit SO/Dorati
Festival Hall

Stanley Sadie

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, long familiar to us from their recordings, have never until now visited Europe. Monday night's Festival Hall concert was in fact their London debut. Their records speak truthfully of them: here is an orchestra of sound musicianship and first-rate technical quality.

Their main test piece was Mahler's First Symphony. Under Antal Dorati, this was no emotional extravaganza; but a strong, sober reading, concentrating more on clarity of texture and integrity of line, and leaving the emotional content of the music to speak for itself. And in that the character of the orchestra was on Mr Dorati's side. The strings here are full-toned, but they are not in the least lush. The violin sound, if not exactly austere, is firm and solid, with a full sheen but a sharp focus; and the same could be said of the other string departments. We had an almost alarmingly rich and throaty sound from the violas in their F minor solo late in the finale, and a beautifully smooth, almost cello-like solo from the leading double-bass in the "Frère Jacques" music—Mahler perhaps expected something more gruff, but I would not complain.

There was some superb playing from the brass: crisp, urgent trumpets in the finale music, nobly and surely ringing horns. The woodwind, seen to stress blend and precision above individual refinement; their clean, strong lines and their unanimity in the slow music at the opening of the work were a model of control.

Control is Mr Dorati's strong suit. He holds the tempo firm, often leisurely but always taut, permits no liberties, no excess of sentimentality, even in the slow movement—though there he allowed extreme delicacy and sweetness in the violin and cello music. There was a sturdy scherzo, and a finale notable for its decisive pulse and its clean, hard lines. And where, in the outer movements, the moments of emotional release arrived, they lost nothing in force for the restraint in what had gone before.

Earlier we heard music from Barber's *Mosses* ballet, deftly written, if not much above the level of a superior film score; and Mendelssohn's violin concerto, with Yehudi Menuhin bringing to it many refinements of tone, of affection, and understanding but often seeming too tense to make his points in fully relaxed fashion.

CINEMAS

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 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2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2

s five and a half years the wine of Northern Ireland has been managed by what is called "direct rule." That has provided unbridled and efficient administration, free from the political turmoil that engulfed the last years of Stormont and the first five months of the Sunningdale executive. It also answered one dictate of Ulster politics; important as it is to get your own way, it is even more important to prevent the other fellow getting his way. All in all direct rule has much to commend it.

To let every secretary of state feel impelled to move on to nothing else. Mr Merlyn Rees did advance through an elected constitutional convention left to its own devices and urged only with the mission to see if it didn't. Mr Roy Mason announced a round of bilateral talks with the politicians behind the scenes. The talks bore fruit. Now Mr Humphreys has come forward with invitation to the four most numerous political parties in Ulster to meet him in conference in a view to agreeing a form devolved government. Yesterday he presented them with a scintilla of helpful suggestions in the form of a white paper.

"Why, when they have in operation an administration for a province which is widely regarded no mean achievement under circumstances such as those British Governments usually break out of it, especially where there is no encouragement to be drawn from previous examples?"

Apart of the answer to that question lies in the temporary provisional origin of direct rule and the air of a colonial emergency which clings to it—legislative assembly dissolved almost at once, Orders in Council used instead of Acts of Parliament. It is defective in its representative character, possessing only a set of district councils without powers and twelve MPs (one to be seventeen) in a House of Commons. The opportunities offered public service are restricted to those positions which attract unanimous approval of the council and few in case of Parliament. Otherwise the only scope for representative service to the community is through nominated members on public boards. This is unsatisfying to the ambitious people who are content to leave their public affairs to others (in all societies the great majority) are deprived of the modicum of elective participation they look for in return. In short, direct rule is an inferior form of government to that established elsewhere in the British Isles and of less durable structure.

Another reason for trying to move on is that the British Government is under pressure to take a "political initiative" towards settlement in Northern Ireland from Dublin, the United States and, to a lesser extent, European capitals. If the pressure is ignored government of Ulster and containment and ultimate suppression of the Provisional IRA must be expected to be made more difficult both by a greater reluctance to cooperate with the part of the Republic of Ireland and by increased discouragement to disaffection working upon nationalist opinion within Northern Ireland. The Government would also find its foreign relations becoming blighted in a more general way by the Ulster issue. It is therefore advantageous to the Government to be seen to be doing something on the political front in Ulster enough for others to be able to say "At least they tried."

There is also recognized to be interaction between political moves and what occurs in the areas of terrorism. In relation to the kind of political move now contemplated, however, expectation of that kind should be pitched low. No readjustment of the administrative arrangements of the provinces within the United Kingdom will abate in the slightest degree the hatreds, grievances or ambitions of the IRA. Some benefit might accrue from the better contentment of the Roman Catholic community at large, making concealment and high morale more difficult for terrorists. But it can hardly be said that the Provisionals are now at their most effective just when overt support for them in the Catholic population of Northern Ireland is at its lowest ebb. They have enlarged our understanding of Mao's dictum about the fish of revolutionary violence and the water in which they swim; water remains water when it is very lukewarm indeed.

All this adds up to a good case for trying the near-impossible once again. And to judge from

the dismissal of Mr. Derek
Binson has predictably raised
lamour among his fellow work-
ers at British Leyland; it will
a few days before it becomes
clear how much substance there
is behind the fuss. In immediate
disciplinary terms, the action
seems to have been fully
justified, but its prudence will
be tested only by events. Mr.
Binson had already been
warned against handing out
recourse calling for disruptive
action against the company's
organisational plans, and he
had been warned of the conse-
quences of such action. It is
not circular that he dis-
missed did not continue to
be a member of the com-
pany. The action proposed by Sir Michael
Edwards: it incited a minority
in an industry where minorities
have power to stop the
car production line) to frus-
trate the execution of proposals
forced by the workforce only
a few weeks ago by a vote seven

to one, in favour. In addition,
Mr. Robinson has for many years
been an open and active oppo-
nent of all serious efforts to set
the affairs of BL in order, a
destructive influence only par-
tially under the control of the
union to which he belongs.

In the current condition of the
motor industry the question
whether the dismissal was fair
in itself is secondary to the ques-
tion whether it was politically
well advised. It has gained
greater publicity for Mr. Robin-
son and his views than his
pamphlet could ever have done,
and it has cast him in the
role of a martyr. Although he has
been a colourful and strident
figure in the affairs of the com-
pany, his support in terms of
votes at union meetings has
more than once in recent years
been shown to be wanting. Last
month's vote on the Edwards
plan was an overwhelming repudi-
ation of his views by his fellow

workers. It is possible
management seized
the opportunity presented by him
to dismiss him
influence was appar-
low ebb.

British Leyland
Robinson would be
better equipped to
immense problems
under his influence
influence can be
It would be an error in
psychology to suppose
workers who vote to acc-
measures to salvage
pany thereby relin-
insensitive prejudi-
vaccination and soli-
Robinson's treatment
union pressure would
formidable figure that
is a gamble; at this
can only say that S
has so far conducted
of BL with steady re-
judgment that has
once proved better th
his critics.

I wonder if it has occurred to
 one of the distinguished signatories
 of the letters and petitions about
 the Authorized Version of the
 Bible and the Book of Common
 Prayer that what they really should
 be campaigning for is prayer and Bible
 study. I am sure that the Church
 of England, or indeed, any
 Christian body, is it just not true that
 everyone is familiar with the
 text of the Prayer Book and the
 pictures in the King James trans-
 lation. Only those who live in the
 basements of Innocence could
 possibly believe such absurdities.
 Numerous clergymen up and
 down the country will share my
 conviction that ignorance of the
 text in any form and of the Scrip-
 tures in any translation is wide-
 spread and increasing. Yet many
 parish churches with no great lit-
 erary, cultural or even ecclesiastical
 pretensions and background... We
 do not wish our task to be made
 more difficult by presenting them
 with archaic tools for shaping their
 own lives.
 It is difficult to find
 any suggestion in the New Testa-
 ment that the Church's task includes
 of preserving a cultural and
 literary heritage.
 I am faithfully,
 FRANK MASON,
 Vicarage,
 Lodge Road,
 Little
 Wymondley,
 Bedfordshire.
 19th December 1974.

From the Right Reverend Mark
 Mason
 I would like to say that the
 Church of England is not a
 museum. It is a living organism
 which is constantly changing
 and growing. It is not a
 collection of ancient customs
 and traditions which are to
 be preserved as they are.
 It is a church which is
 called to serve the people
 of God in the world today.
 It is a church which is
 called to be a light to the
 world. It is a church which
 is called to be a sign of
 God's love to the world.
 It is a church which is
 called to be a place of
 worship and prayer. It is
 a church which is called to
 be a place of learning and
 teaching. It is a church
 which is called to be a place
 of fellowship and community.
 It is a church which is
 called to be a place of
 hope and joy. It is a church
 which is called to be a place
 of peace and reconciliation.
 It is a church which is
 called to be a place of
 love and kindness. It is a
 church which is called to be
 a place of faith and trust.
 It is a church which is
 called to be a place of
 courage and strength. It is
 a church which is called to
 be a place of wisdom and
 understanding. It is a church
 which is called to be a place
 of grace and mercy. It is a
 church which is called to be
 a place of glory and
 honour. It is a church which
 is called to be a place of
 praise and thanksgiving.
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 of grace and mercy. It is a
 church which is called to be
 a place of glory and
 honour. It is a church which
 is called to be a place of
 praise and thanksgiving.

From the Reverend Douglas Beam
 Sir, The points raised by the Principal
 of St. Hugh's College, Oxford,
 in her letter of 10th (November 14)
 are of an academic nature.
 Two per cent of the population of
 Great Britain attend Holy
 Communion on Sundays. The percentage
 who attend the divine offices of
 Matins and Evensong is even less.
 How the linguistic heritage of the
 Authorized Version of the Bible and
 the Book of Common Prayer can be
 influential on the people of this
 country when the great majority of
 them are not present at the services
 of the Church is a question I would
 like to be answered.
 The P.C.C. of St. Pancras Church,
 London, quite rightly requested that
 the 1650 services should be available,
 so the Sunday services of Holy
 Communion at 8 am and Evensong
 at 6.30 pm are the liturgies of the
 Book of Common Prayer (until
 recent months Evensong was sung
 by our professional choir).
 The number present at Holy Com-
 munion at 8 am averages 10 and at
 Evensong 17. This church is a
 hundred yards out from the centre
 of London University and there are
 several halls of residence within the
 parish.
 I have not noticed professors of
 English or students attending in
 any numbers to appreciate the
 beauties of the Liturgy, nor, as a
 matter of fact, at any other of the
 main churches of the country.
 I am afraid, as I said, the subject
 is purely of an academic one.
 Yours sincerely,
 DOUGLAS BEAM,
 Vicar of St. Pancras,
 12 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

From Mr Antony Allott
 Sir, It is a pleasure to
 write these words again
 after the Times article on
 the function of "Keeper of
 Conscience", and it is
 thus master to which I
 Your and your readers'
 The new film, Life of
 from all reports, is
 blasphemous, but most
 deeply offensive to the
 susceptibilities of most
 believers. It is no excu-
 satory, but meant to be
 successful in its own
 would not serve as an
 for racist productions
 existing law, nor for a
 breach of public order
 offensive words or beha-
 public place. The success
 depends on its capacity
 money.
 When (probably wrong
 opinion) persons can be
 to conviction for jum-
 bridge suspended by an
 ("insulting behaviour")
 over to keep the peace
 of the law, it is a
 (few) nouns in habits go
 marches anyhow, and
 likely to take offence),
 the much greater insult
 tion nor be the subject
 proceedings?
 Imagine for a moment
 film of the life of a com-
 mon or a statesman
 upon the showing of the
 the film was atrocious,
 reprehensible. I am sure
 para-legal means would
 found to prevent such a
 Showing a deeply offe-
 to millions in cinemas ur-
 the land publishes
 effectively, is a tearing
 a football match or in
 the law should extend this
 of "public place" to cover
 extend the list of inter-
 from insult to cover
 religion as well as colour.
 Yours faithfully,
 ANTHONY ALLOTT,
 21 Windsor Road,
 Finchley,
 November 9.

From Mr A. Latham-Koenig, Sir: Your powerful leader of November 13 makes a number of very important points, but spoils a good case by laying too much of the blame for the low productivity of the British economy at the door of the trade unions.

Of course, restrictive practices of all sorts which have been allowed to luxuriate in past years, partly because of weak management, are a major cause of the productivity gap in the United Kingdom. But they are only part of the explanation. There are many other causes of productivity differentials between the United Kingdom and its competitors which must pertain to the management function.

Chief among them are the inefficient allocation and control of work-ordered equipment, deficiencies of design, engineering, production and marketing which result in an inefficient product mix, weaknesses in the management, monitoring, and scheduling of plant operations, etc.

Therefore, before, again, the lack of freedom of workers to sell their labour in the best market is "the prime cause of low productivity". Especially as your statement that, "In the United States the one of the major causes of low productivity is at its highest" is, to say the least, questionable in view of the stagnant productivity in the United States in recent years, which has been pointed out by the United States Administration.

Although the absolute level of productivity in the United States is still higher than in Germany and France and, a fortiori, the United Kingdom, it is closing fast. For the growth in output per man-hour in the United States has declined from more than 3 per cent in the 1950s to less than 1 per cent in the 1960s. In the same period in the United Kingdom, while it has increased over 3 per cent in France and Germany in the same period.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED LATAM-KOENIG,
Economic Adviser.
Director General, Overseas, Inc.
74 St. James's Street, SW1.
November 16.

From Professor Michael Howard, F.R.S.

Sir, Before the witchhunt in Westminster and elsewhere goes any further, I would be grateful for the opportunity to bring to the attention of your readers certain aspects of the Blunt affair that have hitherto been overlooked. In my view, the security authorities are most unlikely to reveal for themselves.

When an enemy agent is discovered, the natural instinct of the security authorities is to exploit him but to use him, and the greater his importance the stronger this instinct will be. Not only is he a mine of useful information, but if his employees are unaware that he has been "blown" they will keep in contact with him. He can then be used as a double agent, feeding them misinformation and continuing to

have the guts to betray my country."

Need one look further than this poisonous doctrine as the inspiration for Mr Blunt's protective intervention?

Never has Mrs Thatcher shown her political resolution to better advantage than in her postwar decision to drag this shabby little history into the light of day. In doing so she has struck her shrewdest blow for British liberty and exposed spurious "liberal" values and their moral impact will be quite as decisive in its effect, and as far-reaching, as any of her radical economic initiatives.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
RUSSELL BURLINGHAM,
Safesmith, Chiswick,
Pall Mall, SW1.
November 26.

From Professor Christopher Thorne.

Sir, It is good to learn that the Government have been prepared to change their minds over the proposed cut in the grant-in-aid to the BBC for the corporation's foreign language services. Furthermore, it is a relief to be free to return to assume that this revoking of a previous decision has been brought about, not simply by the prospect of difficulty in keeping the rank and file of the Conservative Party loyal, but by a genuine realization of the force of the arguments against any reduction in the already all-too-slender means at Britain's disposal for exercising influence, as distinct from power, in the international arena.

Would it be naive to hope that a similar change of mind may now be forthcoming over the decision to limit the number of students from overseas students coming to Britain to pursue their higher education? The argument of national self-interest is by no means unconvincing, but I am afraid that I include in those ranks many foreign academics, of the kind with whom I am at present working to conclude that this proposal is not only unwise on the grounds of self-interest alone, do not the considerations that presumably have carried weight with the Prime Minister over the matter of the *Commonwealth Scholarship and Bursary Fund*, *mutatis mutandis*, with every bit as much force to this question of overseas students' fees?

The said Prime Minister, we are told, is a person who prizes intellect and believes in the exercise of logical argument. How fortunate, then, that at a time when her standing in the country and the world may be under stern tests, she at least is provided with this opportunity to demonstrate that reason, together with flexibility, does indeed have some place in her.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER THORNE,
Professor of International Relations,
University of Sussex,
Falmer,
Sussex.

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From Mr John Garnett

Sir, How good that on the welcome day of the Republic (November 1st) your order should be on the vital need for increasing productivity.

As you say, the Government can help by creating a national atmosphere. The unions are crucial in consultation and negotiation. It is sad, however, that I do not state these important answers known by those companies who have achieved, and are achieving higher productivity.

It is the prime job of those who manage to put over to all employees, continually and regularly, the vital need for productivity and the actions necessary by each to achieve it. This can only be done by opening the channel of communication on a regular face-to-face basis through managers and supervisors (oversavers to you, Sir), to every working team of employees.

It is not about the rights of managers and supervisors to talk directly to all employees, it is about their duty to do so—because the future of Britain, as well as *The Times* depends upon it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARNETT,
Director,
The Industrial Society,
3 Church House Terrace, SW1,
November 14.

From Mr David Webb
Sir, Mrs Mary Whitehouse is quite mistaken in concluding that the Home Secretary is not concerned in the Home Office's decision to broadcast from Dr Brian Mawhinney's Private Member's Indecent Displays (Control) Bill (No 16) for the simple reason that the Bill is not in the Bill's infancy. A letter I received from the Home Secretary, dated July 26, agrees with the National Campaign for the Reform of the Law Publications that "it is right to await the findings of the (Williams) committee . . . before coming to a view on the changes that are needed in the existing law."

However, whilst supporting some measures for the protection of the reasons do not wish to be fertile affront to matters that would seem offensive, we are extremely concerned about Dr Mawhinney's

Protestations before a case may be brought under the Act. Not even a "public good" defence will be permitted.

The very serious implications of the passing of this Bill in its present form will have for newspapers, bookshops, bookstalls and places of exhibition are not, we feel, generally appreciated. It will signal the green light action "go-ahead" for every crackpot from the "Puritan Brigade", as well as piling on the confusion to our already chaotic censorship laws.

An NCROPA meeting with Dr Mawdsley has failed to convince him of the potential pitfalls in his Bill, but, hopefully, Parliament will have the good sense to see the very real dangers it encompasses and reject it.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WEBB,
Organiser,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts,
15 Sloane Court West,
Chelsea, SW3
November 17.

Dressed as sheepmeat

From Mrs Patrick Cable-Alexander

Sir, Sheepmeat? Two good old English words; who wants words introduced here by those French upstarts?

Yours faithfully,
MRS PATRICK CABLE-ALEXANDER,
8 Barkley Drive,
Bamber Bridge,
Prescot, Lancashire.
November 13.

From *Lord Boothby*

Sir, The present world economic depression is all its misfortune is not due primarily to a shortage of oil, but to American insistence on fixing the price of monetary gold at an absurdly low level at Bretton Woods, and subsequently on demonetizing it altogether.

If we had made good the basis of credit, and then distributed and used it properly, as the Currency Commission of the League of Nations Conference of 1922 recommended, there would have been no pre-war deflation or post-war inflation, with the consequent unemployment and distress both brought. Instead we returned to the gold standard in 1925 at the wrong, and fixed parity of exchange; and there was no effective cooperation between central banks of issue.

But he said at least two things that remain valid. First, that productive investment is not the expectation of profit. We have done everything possible to limit that expectation. Second, that individualism, capitalism, precisely because it is based on the individual investor, and production to the individual employer, *presumes* a stable measuring rod of value, and cannot be efficient—perhaps cannot survive—without one.

Gold alone can provide that measuring rod because the whole world believes in it, and has done for two thousand years, and no one believes in anything else worth all the dollar. That is why we have no viable international monetary system today.

Your obedient servant,
BOOTHBY.

11, Grosvenor Gardens.
November 18.

From Mr Peter Taylor

Sir, It may be useful to bear the following points in mind amidst the furor surrounding the BBC film, *Paranormal's* filming of the Provisional IRA in Carrickmore.

I have filmed similar incidents under similar circumstances in my work as a journalist for ITV: one was a Provisional IRA roadblock in Ballymurphy during the Queen's visit in August 1972; the other was a roadblock which was a M60 machine gun was displayed in March, 1978.

After much discussion which centred on their journalistic validity, which must be the criterion by which such sequences are judged, the programme was transmitted. Clearly, since the murders of Airey Neave and Lord Mountbatten, the political climate has changed. *Paranormal's* film lies untransmitted at Lime Grove and Scotland Yard.

There is a degree of hypocrisy in the cries of outrage from Westminster over the BBC film, "house in order". The leaders of both political parties have long realised the realities of the situation they face in Northern Ireland.

On July 7, 1972, William Whitelaw, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the military and political leadership of the Provisional IRA at a private house in Chertsey Walk, Chelsea. They were Seamus Twomey, Sean McDermott, David O'Connell, Gerry Adams, Ivor Egan and Martin McGuinness.

Elsewhere in the country, Wilson, then Leader of the Opposition, met the same men at another location in London. More recently the last

Memories are short. Mr Whitelaw later remarked that, although he found the meeting distasteful, it was not the first time in history that British politicians had talked to terrorists. What has Lord Carrington been doing at Larzac House for the past ten weeks?

Furthermore, *Paranormal* was only filming a reality which the British Army itself acknowledges. In a secret document intercepted early this year and dated December 15, 1978, "Future Terrorist Trends", the Army states:

"Although the Provisionals have lost much of the spontaneous backing they enjoyed early in the campaign, there is no sign of any conventional force, or support from the Security Forces. There are still recruits within the province, both rural and urban, where the terrorists can base themselves with little risk of betrayal and can count on active support in an emergency."

Obviously Carrickmore was one of those places.

The BBC has an honourable record in covering Northern Ireland. But it was attempting to cater for the tradition of the press which only have failed in their journalistic duties if the hooded men they filmed were actors not Provisionals.

It is unfortunate that such public debate as there is about Ireland is centred more on the war the problem is reported than on the problem

Yours sincerely,
PETER TAYLOR,
London, W8,
November 17.

Apocalyptic question
From Mr C. M. Lynch
Sir, If the Americans attack the Russians with atomic missiles based in Britain, what will happen next?
Yours faithfully,
C. M. LYNCH
8 Heath Drive,
Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire.

Sir. Your correspondent, Mr A. F. Minton (November 13), suggested that the hard shoulder of motorways to be used by cyclists and hikers.

Is Mr Minton a cyclist, or a hiker?

If he had ever had the experience of breaking down on a motorway, and had to walk along the hard shoulder, he would know that the hard shoulder of a motorway is not a pleasant place to be, if there is any appreciable volume of traffic.

If the exhaust fumes, noise and buffeting are not a sufficient deterrent, the outcry that would follow the statistically inevitable increase in the number of serious motor accidents would ensure the termination of the scheme.

G. A. VICKERS,
14, AMERY ROAD,
HARROW.
Middlesex.

From Mr Roger Coombs
Sir, Times change indeed when,
after your long absence, your return
is marked by a letter from a corres-
pondent (November 15) boasting
about the unlawful taking of fruit
from one of the royal parks.
The mushrooms are presumably
not cultivated, but the medlars, figs
and mulberries are surely the
property of Her Majesty.
Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOMBS,
Spinlades,
Goudhurst,
Kent.
November 15.

Stock Exchange Prices

Small selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 19. Dealings End, Dec 7. § Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17

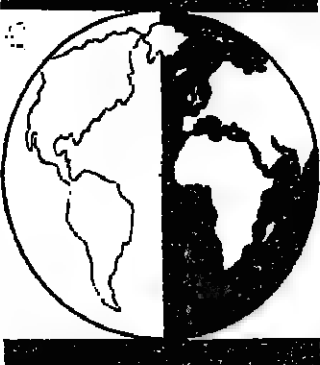
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**LET THE GIN BE
HIGH & DRY!**

Really Dry Gin

[illegible]

g date for entries Monday, 14th
80.



Senate committee restricts oil mergers

Legislation narrowly approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington will severely limit acquisitions by the 16 largest oil companies.

Yoking nine to eight, the committee approved and sent to the Senate a Bill that would prevent these companies making acquisitions of companies having assets of \$100m (just over £42m) or more. The Bill is expected to be brought to the floor of the Senate some time next year.

Tokyo Budget plan

Japan's finance ministry plans to submit a supplementary national budget to Parliament towards the end of December, mainly to reduce national bond flotations in fiscal 1979 by 1,000,000 yen to 14,270,000 yen (about £27,350m).

EEC power loans

Belgium's electricity authority Intercom will receive \$411m (about £195m) from the EEC atomic energy authority Euratom to help finance an extension to an existing nuclear power station at Tihange in eastern Belgium. Euratom will also lend Enel, the Italian electricity company, some \$245m to build a 2,000 megawatt nuclear plant at Moimelle di Castro on the coast road north of Rome.

New rate for rouble

The Soviet state bank has announced that it has lowered the value of the United States dollar in relation to the rouble. Previously the rate was \$1.529 to one rouble. The new rate will be \$1.546. The new rate for the pound will be 0.71 to the rouble, up from 0.724. The Deutsche mark will rise from 2.757 to the rouble to 2.73.

Gold tax debate

France is said to be planning to raise the tax on the sale of gold and other precious metals, which is currently fixed at 4 per cent. The increase, which could be as high as 50 per cent, is likely to be included in the 1980 Budget Bill which is being debated in Parliament, sources said. If confirmed, the rise will take effect from next January 1.

Shop workers' leader gives warning of effect on Jobs

Laser revolution on the way for supermarkets

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Nearly 600 executives involved in retailing packed a London conference yesterday to hear about the accelerating progress of electronic checkout scanning which by 1982 could bring the biggest changes in United Kingdom retailing since the introduction of self-service.

They also heard about the problems it could produce, including a warning on jobs by Mr John Flood, deputy general secretary of the 250,000-strong Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW).

In the United States the scanning revolution—low-intensity lasers at the checkout—has led to a sharp reduction in the number of jobs at supermarkets using the system.

Mr Flood said yesterday: "Claims are being made that there will be nothing like this loss of jobs here, but short-term there have to be worries on this score. In the period before the new system is fully integrated there could be an effect on jobs, and on the other hand we are not certain what new jobs may be created at the end of that period."

To tackle the problems USDAW is prepared to set up a national forum, representing all sectors of the industry, to find answers not only to wages but to "sensible industrial relations" to ensure the increasing efficiency and wellbeing of retailing, Mr Flood went on.

USDAW, which is consulting with European unions on the impact of the new technology in retailing, not only wants to see higher wages—checkout operators in the United States get about £5 an hour, compared with about £1.20 in

Britain—but is insisting on no redundancies.

Mr Donald Harris, a director of Tesco and chairman of the Article Number Association, said the period of dramatic change retailing was entering offered choices to retailers in passing on benefits to staff, to the customer and in profit terms to the shareholder.

"The parameters are changing and we have to come to terms with that," he said, adding that one possibility from scanning was a 10 per cent speed-up of checkouts that might save about 2 per cent on wage bills, which in turn represent about 7 per cent of total costs.

The industry is looking to electronic checkouts to improve stock control, thus reducing the cost of buffer stocks, to yield extensive marketing information on new products and secure a cutback on "shrinkage" resulting from theft or what are known as "sweetheart" transactions (when checkout operators reduce the bill for those they know).

A supermarket with 15 checkouts would cost about £120,000 to equip with electronic checkout equipment—a capital cost which would show a return after two to three years.

Scanning trials, already started by Marks & Spencer, are to be begun early next year by Tesco and J. Sainsbury. Five Fare will follow by the year-end provided, as is now expected, 70 per cent of goods by volume are by then printed with bar codes by manufacturers. It is the Article Number Association which allocates these bar codes to manufacturers, allowing goods to be identified and



Mr Donald Harris (left) and Mr John Flood (right) yesterday.

priced by the computers fed by the laser scanners.

The Co-op already has electronic checkouts operating in 28 stores among its various retailing societies, and one or two are expected to add the refinement of laser scanning next year. Mr Harris forecasts that the major multiples should be able to evaluate scanning and place orders for equipment, bringing the take-off point for the use of the system in larger supermarkets to 1982.

Some of the problems that face the retail trade in adopting laser scanning emerged during the conference. Mr Stephen Gale, divisional director of data processing at Key Markets, said that since his company started scanning last month one of the greatest difficulties had involved descriptions and weight of goods.

But Key Markets had found the checkout operation faster and the fully itemized receipts

which are a feature of the electronic systems had proved acceptable to customers. There had been anxieties among all retailers "before electronic checkouts were tried out that the elimination of individual pricing on goods—although shelves carry pricing and descriptions—might not prove acceptable to customers."

Mr Gale added that control over cash operations was easier. Mr Jeremy Grindle, a director of J. Sainsbury, felt it would be hard to justify investment in laser scanning purely on grounds of checkout improvements. Even about 85 per cent of goods source marked the new checkouts would be only about as fast as a good conventional British checkout, in itself much more efficient than those in the United States. The bonus would have to come from use of information from the electronic system, he added.

Contractors spell out fear over spending cuts

By John Huxley

Irreparable damage will be caused to the construction industry unless there is a change in Government policy on public expenditure, contractors have warned Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

In a letter to the minister, the Federation of Associations of Specialists and Sub-contractors (FASS) says it is deeply concerned about the implications of the latest Government White Paper on spending. Spending on construction at around £7,000m will be the same next year as this, according to the paper.

However, the federation points out that cuts in spending on housing, roads, schools, government office building and local environmental services could total as much as £500m. It says it has looked in vain for compensating increases in other capital work.

Mr John Huxley, federation director, fears that the eventual outcome could mean that actual spending in 1980-81 will be lower than this year. He urges the minister to show in a more detailed White Paper

planned for early next year "evidence of the Government's acceptance of the need to restore priority to construction work."

Meanwhile, provisional figures published by the Department of the Environment yesterday forecast a further decline in construction output. New orders in the third quarter of this year were 9 per cent down on the second quarter and 8 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of 1978. At current prices, the total value of new orders in September was £818m.

The biggest quarterly fall was in public sector housing, where orders were more than a quarter down on the same period last year. On a similar basis, public works orders were down 15 per cent.

Sir Freddie slates BA

Sir Freddie Laker urged a top British Airways executive to "stop talking rubbish" during a discussion on fares at an Association of British Travel Agents convention in Los Angeles. BA was in favour of restricting reforms.

CBI to review industry's 'remorseless decline'

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry will discuss the likely effects of the worsening economy and the impact of high wage settlements at its meeting today.

The meeting is the CBI's first chance to collectively review the jump to 17 per cent in the Minimum Living Rate and the steep rise in inflation revealed in the last Retail Price Index figures. The CBI's industrial trends survey showed a near record decline in company liquidity and company profitability.

Regional branches of the CBI have been asked to report on their members' reactions to developments in the economy and pay. These were still pouring into the CBI's Tenthil Street headquarters last night and will be presented to the ruling council today.

Industrialists' collective opinions on the future of the economy will be presented at next month's National Economic Development Council meeting alongside those of Government and the Trades Union Congress. This NEDC meeting is important because it will be the first

for some time at which the three sides will debate macro economic matters.

The CBI has for some time advocated a national economic forum at which economic realities can be spelt out publicly in the hope of influencing pay demands.

Industrialists view the continuing high wage settlements with growing concern. Sir John Medhurst, director-general of the CBI, described the present pay round as "certified madness" yesterday. Sir John gave warning at a conference on industrial relations in London that a further decline in investment and increase in unemployment would result if pay settlements continued at their present high level.

The CBI so far has not issued figures for unit pay data bank for this pay round. The method of collecting information was changed during the summer once it became apparent that the Government was not planning to introduce an official incomes policy. The CBI is also assessing how bargaining structures and timetables operate from its contacts with employers' organisations, nationalised industries and private employers.

ICI plans £20m paint resin plant

By Our Industrial Staff

Imperial Chemical Industries is planning to spend more than £20m on a new paint and resin manufacturing plant at Stowmarket in Suffolk.

The announcement of the project, which should result in the creation of about 30 permanent new jobs, coincides with a call from chemical industry unions that workers should fight redundancies planned "arbitrarily" elsewhere in the group.

Work should begin on the resin plant next spring, subject to planning permission, and the plant commissioned in early 1982.

Mr Deys Henderson, chairman of the paint division, said yesterday that the investment represented an important step in ICI's plans to develop its share of the total European paint market. The division employs about 5,100 people producing more than 100m litres of paint a year in the United Kingdom.

The plant will replace older resin plants at Stowmarket and Slough, Berkshire, the division's other main sites.

Earlier, Mr David Warburton, secretary of the Chemical Union Council, told a conference of the Transport and General Workers Union that plans by ICI and other chemical companies to cut workforces should be resisted.

He said ICI was seeking a five per cent cut in its plastics labour force and a 25 per cent cut in fibres division in Northampton, as well as "several hundreds" in other divisions.

Calling for a campaign against "arbitrary cutbacks", Mr Warburton said such moves could not be justified by flimsy arguments about competition. Much capital had gone abroad and the Government's decision to lift all exchange controls gave the "green light" to "profits first, UK last" brigade in chemicals," he said.

He questioned ICI's concern about national interest when instead of providing job security in Britain, it "chooses to build a plant in northern Germany".

In Frankfurt, a warning that 1980 will be a different year for European producers of chemical fibres was given yesterday by Mr Guenter Metz, fibre sales manager of Hoechst.

Mr Metz expected an increase in fibre imports into Western Europe, particularly from American producers, who were benefitting from low costs and the relative weakness of the dollar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lords judgment and 'flag of convenience' ship operators

From the General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation

Sir, Sir Frederick Bolton can rest easy (Letters, November 19). The Naula judgment has no significance for all for the seafarer. British or foreign who sails under his true colours. A plea for the flag of convenience operators, on the other hand—if that is what he is making—is little short of a death-wish for it is those operators who have eaten away at the genuine seafarers' position by the flag of convenience. As for the "happy" crew, he will not be surprised to know

that we view that aspect very differently. If the House of Lords had taken this point, seafarers would have become a seaman who as much as set his foot on a flag of convenience vessel, just as it is now a requirement for many of them that they declare in writing that they will not contract the I.T.F. or its affiliated unions on pain of instant dismissal or subsequent blacklisting for life.

No reasonable assessment of the Naula judgment can be made without putting it in its context. For so long as the flag of convenience owners can shop around for their crews, in from all national restraints, in

a buyers' market, then civilised bargaining of the kind Federic advocates will be sham. The owners themselves know this full well and it will be shameful if any it is done under English law make it even easier to do and abuse them when a state is already an international scandal.

Yours truly,
HAROLD LEWIS,
General Secretary,
International Transport Workers' Federation,
135-137 Great Suffolk Street,
London, SE1 1PD,
November 20.

Value of dealer network to BL cars recovery

From the chairman of BL cars Dealer Council

Sir, The heading "BL dealer network collapse" after defecting to European car groups) and first paragraph of Clifford Webb's article (November 14) paint a picture of dealer defections and their implications on sales for BL Cars. There is no denying that other manufacturers look anxiously at the strong BL dealer network and some dealers have changed over.

The facts are, however, that BL still have the strongest dealer network in the United Kingdom and we are going to reports of wholesale defections are both inaccurate and damaging to our major British motor manufacturer.

Far from being downhearted as Webb's Dealer Council, Roger Car Limited, Parkside House, Somers Road, Huddersfield HD5 9AU, November 16.

recovery plan shows a constructive attitude which dealers see as long-term benefit in industrial relations.

The speed-up of the model replacement programme was good news for the dealers. BL cars have always excelled in fuel economy and the new models, some of which are almost with us, will bring to the market place fuel-efficient cars equipped and built to the most advanced standards.

In a nutshell dealers think BL is getting to grips with the principal problems and winning. We remain confident that the company can build the right cars, and we are going to be around to service them for a long time.

Yours sincerely,
R. CARBUTT,
Chairman of the Dealer Council,
Roger Car Limited,
Parkside House,
Somers Road,
Huddersfield HD5 9AU,
November 16.

Employment protection and small companies

From Mr Geoffrey Lacey

Sir, I was delighted to read the letter from Mr J. W. Seabright November 16. With the great eloquence that only a perfect example can bring, Mr Seabright puts the case against the over-protection of employees in a severe and convincing way.

Time and time again the facts of employment protection are reeled off, although I am sure that some of us would dispute the fact that nowadays the security for those in employment is not high.

However, the reality is that because of over-protection, employers are positively fearful of making the staff. The risks and responsibilities are too

great. Surely, everyone would agree that the employment we have to increase the business's willingness to expand and help him overcome the inherent risks of new recruitment.

We must simplify the whole range of employment legislation if we are to increase the prospects of new employment in this country. Mr Seabright draws our attention to but one example of regulation gone mad.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY LACEY,
Chief Executive,
The Small Business Bureau,
32 Smith Square,
London, SW1P 3BB,
November 16.

Case for reducing excise duty on wine

From Mr Robert J. Horowitz

Sir, While the United Kingdom forcefully and justly argues for the reduction of the British contribution to the EEC budget, and President Giscard d'Estaing has urged the United Kingdom to reduce its contribution, the French ban on the importation of English mustard has led the EEC Commission's ruling regarding the free circulation of goods and spirits within the Community, must surely undermine our case. No one would suggest that we sheepishly follow every Community recommendation, nor can we be expected to sacrifice our own interests to the catastrophic mis-handling of the market's common agricultural policy.

Above all, we may have national interests that clash with European interests.

The massive differential however, between the excise duty levied in the United Kingdom on a gallon of wine (£2.95 per gallon) and the excise duty on beer (£0.56 per gallon) has led the European Court to rule that Britain has failed to comply with Article 95 of the EEC treaty.

We drink a lot of wine—over 25 million gallons of wine per annum, and we would use much more if wine was as cheap as beer. France, Italy and Germany are among the world's largest wine producers and were founder members of the EEC. Spain and Portugal hope

to join the Community, EEC-associated countries Greece and Israel are important wine producers too.

Are we to remain the nation within the EEC dependent on wine imports? In vino veritas—our comment to Europe may be by our attitude to excise on wine. Reduction in it will inevitably promote a greater consumption of wine with most likely too.

Yours faithfully,
Robert J. Horowitz,
Managing Director,
Carmel Wine Company Ltd,
Palm House,
Ladbroke Row,
London E4 6JX,
November 16.

'Alice in Wonderland' policy

From Mr Bruce Lloyd

Sir, This country is in danger of being sucked into a financial doom-day machine that could easily degenerate into the worst recession for 40 years. Consider the following four pressures:

1. High interest charges and a severe credit squeeze inevitably lead to lower economic growth. As a result government revenue from taxes and other sources declines (because the industries in difficulty also tend to increase) but government expenditure tends to be a fixed overhead cost (that is, it does not automatically decline with lower growth). Consequently the public sector borrowing requirement can easily both increase at the same time as become much more difficult to fund.

2. At an industrial level higher interest rates can actually lead to an increase in borrowing at least in the short term. This "borrowing J-curve" arises because many costs are largely an overhead expense, while lower growth means a significant amount of further borrowing is often needed to cover the commitments. Of course, marginal borrowing for new commitments are postponed, but that is a relatively small portion of total borrowing. Many lenders have to add to their borrowings in order to cover the existing debt. If borrowing for new investment is at a low level, the only way to reduce total outstanding loans is through a significant increase in corporate liquidation. This will be inevitable if the present high level of interest rates are maintained for several months.

However, in the immediate future, as present measures can easily lead to greater borrowing, it is essential that even higher rates are not then used in another misguided attempt to control the money supply. Such an approach quickly degenerates into a vicious circle which can only end in a traumatic (and self-defeating) recession.

3. Again in the short term, higher interest charges and a credit squeeze adds to inflation rather than decreases it—another "J-curve" effect, as the importance of the cost of debt in the overall cost of living is widely underestimated in traditional economic theory.

4. Internationally, higher interest rates in the United Kingdom will both increase the value of sterling and encourage an inflow of funds into the United Kingdom. The former trend makes exporting more difficult and can easily worsen the balance of trade position to the point where even higher interest rates, and a further credit squeeze, is thought to be the only way of reducing imports and increasing exports.

Increasing the flow of overseas funds into the United Kingdom only makes it more difficult to control our domestic money supply. Consequently, both reactions can easily end up by actually working against the original policy objectives.

If these four factors are combined it is easy to see how any pre-occupation with the short-term effect of the present measures (that is, if inflation and the money supply are still seen to be interesting in two or three months time) can drive us all even further into the depths of a very severe depression. In fact we may already be beyond the point of no return.

At the present time the rest of the world is beset by a large number of other extremely difficult international economic problems. It is particularly unfortunate that present policies in the United Kingdom run considerable risk of not only causing a major domestic recession, but they do nothing to help restore political and economic stability as it moves faultily into the precarious equilibria.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LLOYD,
48 Aberdare Gardens,
London, NW6,
November 19.

From Mr Edward Smith
Sir, As a somewhat bewil-

dering director, may I the assistance of your pressably with a specialist expertise, to unravel the drum propounded by the House of Commons on November 16. His statement on the Government proposed about the job of contain inflation, and may be summarised by the following:

1. If one raises the interest rate, it will cause extravagant house rustling into shops to buy durable consumer durables and will not, of course, manufacturers striving to their export competitive an artificially jacked-up.

2. Raising the interest to fiscally penal levels will, of course, encourage those have money to keep it safe place where it can earn more than in vulgar indulgence.

3. The younger generation's anxiety to put their money into bricks and mortar instead of the bingo club stocks and shares, must be encouraged, if inflation is brought under control.

Tweedledum Healey has replaced by Tweedledee at the Mad Hatter's Tea. As a young boy I enjoyed in Wonderland but in days I did not have the stability of employees and I

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD A. SMITH,
Pilmeac Limited,
Farnborough Road,
Lindsey GL15 4EJ,
November 16.

The Times
SPECIAL
REPORTS
on the situation and
outlook of the UK
economy

Metal Box Interim Statement

The unaudited trading figures for the half-years to 30th September, 1979 and 1978 are tabulated below:

	%	Half-year to 30th Sept. 1979 £'000	Half-year to 30th Sept. 1978 £'000
Sales			
Home	+11.4	340,160	305,290
Overseas	+44.0	205,300	142,570
	+21.8	545,460	447,860
Profit before taxation			
Home	+ 1.2	22,300	22,040
Overseas	+38.9	11,370	8,180
Associated Companies		300	810
	+ 9.5	33,970	31,030
Estimated taxation on the profit of the period	+15.4	7,700	6,570
Profit after taxation	+ 7.8	26,270	24,360
Interest of minority shareholders	+53.4	2,670	1,740
Interest of Metal Box Limited	+ 4.3	23,600	22,620

For the half-year to September 1979, the overseas currencies have been converted at the mid-market rates of exchange at 30th September 1979; for the half-year to September 1978, they have been converted at the rates used in the accounts for the year to March 1979.

Consolidated sales rose by £376 million (21.8%) and profit before taxation by £2.9 million (9.5%). Sales at home rose by £34.9 million (11.4%) and overseas by £62.7 million (44.0%). Profit before taxation at home was higher by £0.3 million (1.2%). Profit of the overseas subsidiaries was up by £3.2 million (38.9%).

The marginal profit increase at home reflects a modest overall increase in the volume of sales over the first six months of last year. Overseas, the results were better than last year and represent improved performances by nearly all the subsidiaries. The progress of the United States subsidiaries is satisfactory and going to plan.

The central heating business continues to advance.

In the second half-year, its results will include those of the radiator business which, as recently announced, has been acquired for £25 million from the heating division of the Swedish AGA group.

In the second half-year, demand in the United Kingdom is unlikely to increase and therefore profit improvement will depend largely upon the ability to contain costs. Overseas, demand is more buoyant and this should continue. Provided there are no major industrial disruptions, such as those of last winter, or other unforeseen circumstances, combined profit for the year is expected to be ahead of the combined profit for the year to March 1979.

Expenditure on fixed assets during the half-year was £37.6 million of which £16.5 million was spent overseas.

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 8.47p per £1 unit of ordinary stock (23p last year) in respect of the year to 31st March 1980, payable on 21st January 1980 to holders registered on 21st December 1979.



Metal Box Limited

If you would like a copy of our Interim Report, please write to

The Company Secretary, Metal Box Limited, Queens House, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Americans in Lime Street

rest in the insurance broking sector is rising increasingly on the transatlantic ups created over the past 18 months. Heath is almost alone among United Kingdom major groups in spurning the idea of pooling arrangements and the like with American groups.

Each of course with its strong involvement in underwriting and special strength surplus lines business as well as strong links with Rollins Burdick has not felt a strong need to go hunting for a United States bridgehead.

Then A&A moved its McDonnell Douglas unit away from Stewart Wrightson into the business went to Heath and Sedgwick.

Elsewhere traditional links between UK brokers and their American counterparts have been disrupted much more noticeably particularly as a result of the sale of MacLennan-Pooling plan with ring. The United States groups are still keen to secure their connections with the UK market at something closer than the length and could take advantage of not ratings to buy their way in.

It is, Heath's interim results provide an indication of the gloom now pervading the general insurance industry as business conditions deteriorate, particularly in the United States.

Heath's operating profits are down 10 per cent at £5.9m with the downturn attributed to the effect of sterling's strength on dollar income. In fact, brokerage, down slightly 8.6m, would have been 10 per cent up 9.4m if the pound had stood still while the profit would have been almost 10 per cent up 10.4m.

However, Heath is not denying that competition is getting tougher all the time while it is sticking doggedly at bargain basement levels in all sectors. So, like all UK insurers, who rely heavily on US business, it has no option but to go on the defensive.

Keep the lid on expenses and lie low waiting for better times which with inflation going higher may be nearer than pessimists suggest.

sector ratings, then may be overdoing agony. Certainly Heath offering a fully paid p/e of over 7 assuming a drop of £2m a share over £14m for the full year and a yield of around 7 per cent at 168p is to be squaring up to short-term speculators.

IC/Avery's
re day of reckoning
Avery's shareholders must now decide whether to accept GEC's takeover terms or to reject the offer. The offer is a cash offer of 150p a share, which is a 40 per cent premium on the last bid of 107p.

It was first mooted a year ago and par much higher than Avery's shares would be in the market now if, without GEC, they had been caught up in widespread nervousness about the engineering sector.

Shareholders can opt to take the GEC by Friday, perhaps even put it into a ring society, and earn about double the price they expect after Avery's defensive 10 per cent increase in the payment.

It runs the argument that it is only a matter of price, and that in view of the increasing recession GEC's offer is too good to resist. The opposing view, held by the British Insurance Association, is that GEC is being opportunistic, that in spite of a forecast of 10 per cent more trading profit in 1979, Avery's been damaged by the engineering strike over this year, and that if its management believes it can survive and prosper independently it should be allowed to try to do so.

The political and industrial atmosphere is moment, in which it seems that those faster must yield to the strong, that is a fashionable view.

It is this an argument nevertheless, and that would have carried considerable weight a year ago when GEC first started bidding for Avery. As it happens Avery's has faltered, but it may be about to pay the price for having been a rather dull, conservatively-managed company for too long.

The truth is that Avery's often seemed to promise more dramatic growth, particularly at the time of decimation and the onset of metrication, but that it failed to produce it.

Avery's started to wake up a couple of years ago, recognized the importance of micro-electronic application to its products, saw the threat of Far East competition and took steps to establish a more sophisticated sales and marketing effort.

This costs money and the fact that Avery's has for the first time taken on modest borrowings has been construed as the first sign of impending financial weakness by the GEC camp.

The snag for Avery's is that the seed of doubt has been sown; too often shareholders in companies like this have supported their board in fighting off a bid only to find that the value of their investment falls rapidly in real terms once the euphoria has died down and, worse, that they are being asked for additional funds to finance support for the ambitions set out during a defence.

This is the risk; and it is sufficiently real given the economic climate for Avery's shareholders to accept the GEC bid. It may be that on a three-year view GEC is getting Avery's cheaply, but if Avery's experience encourages other sound but historically sleepy companies to wake up, it will have been worthwhile.

Metal Box

Dull at home

Metal Box has done better than the market expected in its first half, but it is being cagey about home prospects for the remainder of the 1979-80 period and beyond—and with good reason.

Home market profits so far are only £0.3m better at £22.3m and there was only a modest sales volume increase. This in turn masks an exceptionally strong showing from the Stalder central heating business (which turned in around 28 per cent of earnings) and a flat performance in metal cans where prices were held in line with BSC triplate prices for 10 months until October.

Fortunately, this was more than made up overseas. A near-40 per cent gain here pushed group interim profits up by 91 per cent to £33.9m on a 21.8 per cent sales increase.

This should continue but the question for domestic earnings is whether growth can be maintained in central heating (and with housing and improvement finance so expensive there must be a doubt) and to what extent Metal Box can reestablish satisfactory margins on cans after an 111 per cent price increase the other day and in the face of



Mr Dennis Allport, chairman of Metal Box: a strong overseas performance.

increasing competition next year from Continental Can which will open up its first UK plant making two-part cans in North Wales.

Metal Box recognizes this, though it points to the defensive qualities of canned foods in a recession. It is clear nevertheless that it is relying on its overseas businesses, including the push into the United States where a new plant has been opened in California, holding the balance for the next couple of years.

Dividend policy at this stage suggests that the board is erring on the side of optimism (comforted perhaps by relatively low earnings of around 30 per cent). A 10 per cent increase in the interim payment suggests a prospective yield of 12 per cent, which is better than average, but may not be enough next year to underpin a share price of 246p, up 12p yesterday.

Jerusalem

Later this week the Israeli government of Mr Menachem Begin will receive a further reminder of the economic difficulties which were destined to follow in the train of its one real achievement since taking office in 1977, the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt.

On Sunday the Israelis will formally hand back to the Egyptians full control of the Sinai oilfield in the Gulf of Suez seized during the 1967 war. At present producing at a rate of 40,000 barrels a day, the offshore field is now meeting more than one fifth of Israel's domestic consumption and its loss will add greatly to the country's fuel import bill.

As well as the loss of the valuable oil field, the process of handing back the Sinai to President Sadat is saddling the Israelis with another financial burden which will add to their already dire economic plight. This is the estimated \$5,000m which is expected to be the final cost of redeploying a large section of the armed forces to new bases in the Negev, a sum which will be injected into an already overheated economy whose inflation rate is now expected to reach 120 per cent by the end of the year.

The imposition of the extra fuel bill comes in the same month as a government reshuffle which has given the Likud its second finance minister, a former businessman and outspoken critic of the Camp David agreement, Mr Yigael Hurvitz, an abrasive politician with a reputation for bluntness. Mr Hurvitz quickly let it be known in his own graphic language that he was prepared "to cut from the living flesh" in his efforts to reduce excessive spending and to ease the economy back to health.

Yesterday less than a fortnight after his appointment, Mr Hurvitz unveiled the first stage of his economic plan. Aimed at securing a quick and dramatic cut in the cost of living, it was a bold move, its severity shocked even those who had been braced for tough new measures.

As well as a credit squeeze,

Mr Yigael Hurvitz (right), Israel's new Finance Minister, has said that he is prepared to cut from 'the living flesh' in his attempts to nurse the economy back to health



a freeze on public building and an import levy of 10 per cent Mr Hurvitz has also introduced a sweeping series of cuts in government subsidies. As a result, most dairy products, including milk, cheese and butter, have jumped in price by more than 100 per cent and most other basic foodstuffs from between 25 to 50 per cent.

Public transport, which went up two weeks ago, will increase in price by another 50 per cent on December 1st. Telephone charges by 52 per cent, and electricity by 37 per cent.

Reliable analysts predict that the new package will lead to an immediate fall in the cost of living index of 15 per cent over the next month. There are also predictions that the measures will lead to lay-offs in private industry and bankruptcies.

Initial trade union reaction was hostile, claiming that the burden of Israel's economic problems was being placed on the poor.

Inevitably, it is the problem of runaway inflation which will dominate Mr Hurvitz's work in the office and which is not quickly brought under control will almost certainly guarantee the coalition's defeat at the next general election as Professor

Haim Barkai, dean of social sciences at Israel's Hebrew University, explained: "We are now living through the nightmare that every European government is terrified of."

Even before this week's move price rises followed each other with bewildering regularity and consumers have been prepared to go to almost any length to get their money into goods and out of the devaluing local currency. Shops are even doing a roaring trade in \$2,500 colour television sets, although the Israeli broadcasting authority will not be transmitting in colour for at least another two years.

In spite of the astonishing pace of price increases, ordinary Israelis have not yet found 100 per cent inflation as painful as might be expected. This is because wages, pensions, loans, insurance, income tax and even government-issued bonds are directly linked to the cost of living index. As a commentator in the daily Ha'aretz newspaper remarked recently: "Most of the public has learned not only to live with inflation, but to flourish in its shadow."

Apart from any political considerations, Mr Hurvitz's health and apparent reluctance to involve himself in domestic affairs.

Much of Israel's "new economic policy" was fashioned after the *laissez faire*

doctrines of the American economist Dr Milton Friedman, who was invited to Jerusalem for consultations soon after the Likud victory ended 29 consecutive years of Labour rule. In face of the subsequent descent into economic crisis and the 65 per cent jump in the inflation rate it is not yet clear how many of these doctrines Mr Hurvitz will attempt to reverse.

Apart from inflation and the problems posed by that for the future health of Israeli democracy a number of the country's other main economic indicators are also in need of attention. The balance of payments deficit, which was \$2,300m in 1977, has now almost doubled and the accumulated foreign currency debt is standing at about \$13,000m.

Egypt's current foreign debt stands at \$22,000m and it was predominantly the size of foreign debts incurred as a result of the long history of hostilities in the region which recently prompted Mr Arnon Gafny, governor of the Bank of Israel, to propose a type of "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East. He argued that what was needed was a financial bridge of up to \$30,000m over the next decade to help Israel and Egypt to achieve the difficult transition from war to peace.

In the absence of any concrete response so far to the suggestion Israel is seeking more than \$3,000m in loans and grants from Western countries, about \$1,000m more than it has sought in recent years.

A number of leading independent analysts are now publicly expressing the hope that the American government may seek to attach strings to the eventual package in order to ensure that the Israeli government really does take the drastic steps needed to put its economy in the order. Professor Barkai, who like most local economists is highly critical of the government's performance, said: "One positive step towards recovery would be for the Carter Administration to attach the same sort of conditions to its loans to Israel as the International Monetary Fund did when it bailed out the last British Government."

Civil engineering: sorting the weak from the strong

Britain's big civil engineering contractors have until recently been able to postpone the consequences of deteriorating market conditions both at home, where output has slumped by more than 30 per cent since 1970, and abroad.

Profits of the large companies have shown a healthy growth belying claims made by the industry that it was being hit by public sector cuts. George Wimpey's profits, for example, grew sevenfold in 10 years, while those of the Costain group have risen from £2m to £47m since 1968.

Industry leaders, on some stock market sceptics—argued that such prosperity could not last. They pointed to the difficulty in finding new contracts to replace lucrative overseas work nearing completion, and the tightening of margins as competition turned cut-throat.

This pessimism is now being vindicated. Wimpey has reported interim profits down by 42 per cent to £8.4m; those of John Laing fell by a third to £5m and Taylor Woodrow's from £8.1m to £7.7m. Costain managed to increase its half-time profits slightly, but it, too, has not escaped. Workload at the end of June was £510m against £700m a year earlier.

Worse, Higgs & Hill, whose half-time figures showed profits down £1.2m to £205,000, decided to call it a day and pull out of civil engineering after experiencing a variety of problems on contracts in the United Kingdom and the West Indies.

Contractors now appear resigned to a period of sharp cuts in civil engineering contracts—30 per cent of which in the home market have traditionally come from the public sector—and more modest returns in the overseas market.

With few opportunities for pressing further down-market in search of the "bread and butter"

work previously handled by smaller companies, each large contractor is now anxious to switch contracting capacity elsewhere and use accumulated cash, where available, to diversify.

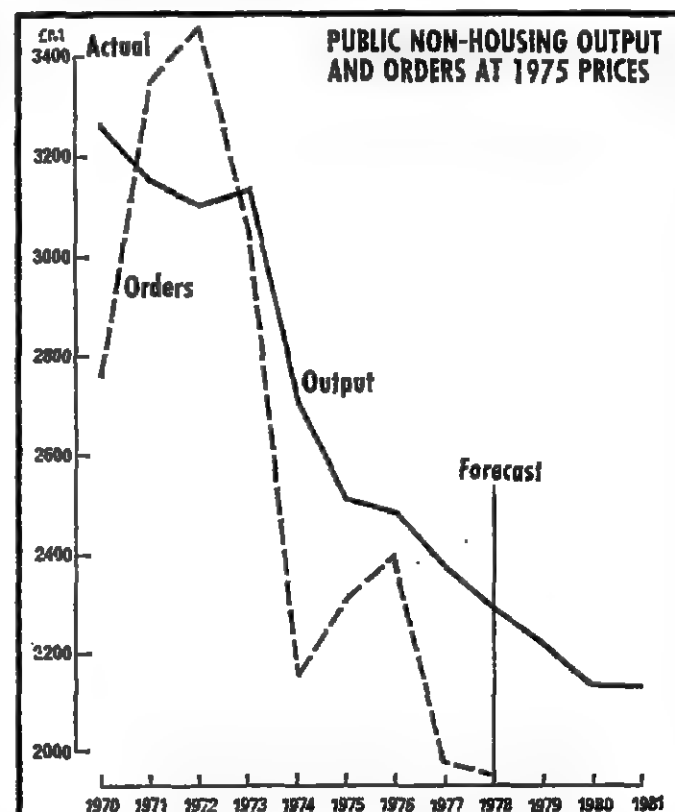
Mr C. T. Wyatt, chief executive of the Costain group, believes that the next few years will be difficult and will "sort out the weak and the strong."

The large companies are already far less dependent on civil engineering than previously. But there is no room for complacency. There is tremendous pressure on construction companies to diversify into areas of high growth. Dr Ralph Stacey, corporate planning manager of John Laing, explained:

Identifying new areas for expansion has not been easy, not least because there is little buoyancy in the markets traditionally allied to construction—and those to which it is simple to switch skills, manpower and equipment. The private sector, where there has been a revival, can not provide sufficient work for the civil engineers.

The companies are keeping quiet about their diversification plans. Wimpey is known to be interested in expanding further in the field of waste management, while Laing is one of a number pursuing more effort in industrial engineering. The company also believes its building materials side will benefit from the greater emphasis placed on thermal insulation.

Costain has made a number of small investments—in Capital and Counties property group and Streeters of Godalming, a smaller contractor, for example—but its main thrust appears to be into process engineering, through the acquisition of a small American company and continuing in-



terest in the British specialist, Wilsoe.

Mr Wyatt sees Costain expanding its role as a builder of plant for the energy-related industries—an area where the majority of large construction contracts have been awarded.

Mr Frank Gibb, managing director of Taylor Woodrow Construction, also admits that while a number of far years the pressure is on his and other companies to find profitable outlets for expertise and resources.

The group has been engaged in nuclear power station construction for more than 25 years, has been developing its expertise in energy-related fields since well before the 1973 energy crisis and began work on its first open-cut site in 1942.

Mr Gibb says the group is likely to announce a large, multi-million pound contract soon which will keep some of its civil engineering resources busy for four or five years to come. It is well placed, too, to win further power station building contracts.

According to Professor Philip Al'Pherson, head of the Systems Science Department of the City University, such a ball was available—systems analysis.

In a paper to be delivered to the Ships Systems Symposium organized by the Nautical Institute at the University today he says that marine technology and economics obey the same logistic laws of growth as biological species and can be predicted. His paper does not say why he did not make a packet at the time.

Here is a postscript to my story yesterday about the bust of a miserable-looking man which *Condor Engineering* cut out. The Satisfied Customer and displays in the entrance to its factories. *Condor* chairman Robin Cole tells me that there was once a very dissatisfied customer for the original. It was apparently sold to the *Louvre* in the 1860s as a head by Verocchio, of the 15th century Italian port Benvenuto. In fact, the bust was a fake by the nineteenth century Easton and was not of a poet but a tobacco worker.

Ross Davies

Business Diary: Gray's in • The piggyback now leaving...

When Gray just cannot cut it from the doomed BSC works at Shotton on December 1st, it was managing director of the BSC's strip division, until he was edged by the corporation's man, Sir Monty Finnison, bidding to the first of the stages in the killing of it.

It withdrew into steel company with John Kay, his director of engineering, bereaved away on plans for steelmaking on Decade.

Last week he announced he and associates could 49 per cent of the equity in doomed plant, saving 500 of the 6,500 jobs that he lost.

Yesterday, it emerges that will continue to be closely involved with Shotton, independently of any bid. He was as successor to Sir Dai as chairman of the Development Agency.

In January, WDA provides investment capital for companies, a small business and attracts foreign investment to Principality.

1980, however, it will start raising a special £15m fund creating new opportunities and around Shotton. Since then, though well-known in public life, has not been involved with the WDA before, must be assumed that his rise in the steel industry has contacts in the City are and his appointment.

The words "National Union of Railwaymen" occur so frequently in connection with unpleasantness that I take a perverse delight in recording this support from the NUR newspaper, *Transport Review*.

It appears that British Rail has been asked by the Stafford NUR branch secretary, Bro Hartshorne, to put back a station wheelbarrow crossing at Penkridge, Staffs. The crossing was used by passengers in wheelchairs.

One of Bro Hartshorne's NUR constituents at Penkridge, the newspaper says, "now carries disabled passengers across the track piggyback—hardly in keeping with the Advanced Passenger Train image."

"At other times," the paper continues, "villagers have been recruited from the square to help in carrying the disabled across the footbridge."

BR argues that there is no need for the crossing because station barrows have been drawn and, as passengers have to get on to the railway platform by using a flight of steps, they ought to be able to manage the footbridge.

How long I wonder, before an amorphous NUR puts in for a piggyback allowance?



"If Mrs Thatcher gets this £1,100m from the EEC I suppose civil servants will put in for a whacking rise."

The CBI's controversial move to Harry Hyams's Centre Point has taken an unusual twist, I hear. Among the many developers interested in taking the 125-year lease now out to tender on the CBI's present headquarters in Trenchard Street, Westminster, is said to be none other than one H. Hyams.

The asking price for the lease is £4 down—which is the cost of doing up the CBI's 14 floors at Trenchard Street—a rent of £50,000 for two years and then the clincher, a percentage of the rent the eventual occupier will pay the Trenchard Street developer.

CBI member firm Y. J. Lovell is doing up the new CBI offices, which should be and may even

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts band-wagon goes into reverse

The second day of the new account turned into a dull affair yesterday following Monday's bright start.

Fears of an all-out strike at British Leyland as a result of the sacking of one of its shop stewards was soon given added impetus by reports that Zambia had declared war on Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

As a result, Southern Rhodesian Bonds were immediately marked down, with losses of up to £1.1 by the close, they had rallied slightly although Southern Rhodesia 2½ per cent 65-70 was 27 lower at £105 as were Southern Rhodesia 6 per cent 78-81 £11 lower at £133.

The boom being experienced by gilt-edged securities also came to a full stop yesterday, with active two-way trading, resulting in falls of £1 in long and losses of between £1 to £1.13 in shorts. The Treasury "A" 13½ per cent, 2000-03, finished the day £1 lower at £231. Dealers are now admitting that the initial attraction of the £800m of Treasury, 15 per cent, 1985, is now beginning to look less of a good buy but it is not yet certain how much foreign interest will be shown.

The lack of interest experienced among equities was reflected in the £ index which opened 0.7 off, before dipping to 5.0 at 2 pm. A rally after hours saw the index manage to finish off the bottom, 3.6 lower at 407.7.

Interest among leading industrialists remained subdued as the market awaited with interest figures from three of the leaders tomorrow. ICI firmed

ahead of its nine-month report 1p to 33p, but Beecham with interim figures due slipped 2p to 126p and Courtaulds remained unchanged at 76p. Others to remain firm included Glaxo at 400p, Fisons at 237p and BAT at 245p as Pilkington Brothers dipped 5p to 248p and Rank Organisation lost 4p to 180p.

Oil was about the only sector to remain active, with much interest being shown in Tricentral ahead of third-quarter today, the shares finishing 13p up at 258p.

Speculation continued to surround Oil Exploration as investors waited for news of the mystery bidder. After touching 730p the shares finished with a net gain of 3p to 710p. Lasso gained 10p in sympathy to 352p.

Elsewhere in oils, BP improved 6p to 370p and the "new" gained 2p to 163p, while Shell improved 4p to 340p and Ultra rose 8p to 354p.

Companies affected by the situation in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia included Stocklake, 9p lower at 100p and Turner & Newall, a penny lighter at 116p. Lonrho remained firm at 66p.

Among companies reporting, Bax confounded the experts by reporting figures above most market expectations. As a result, the shares jumped 8p to 246p. Wade Potteries remained unchanged at 45p, while Moran Tea

retreated 5p to 305p after its trading statement.

Talks between British Vita, 2p down at 125p, and Vita-Tex over a possible takeover resulted in Vita-Tex being suspended at 71p, unchanged, GEC slipped 3p to 324p, while rumours that the bid for Avey's might fall left the latter 5p lower at 234p. EMI finished 4p off at 130p and Thorn dipped 8p to 296p. Further nervous selling left Whesoco a further 4p down at 128p.

News that Europacard had sold its stake in Furness Withy was greeted with a rise of 3p to 255p, while renewed interest in Ladbroke, currently appealing for the return of its gambling licence, saw the shares gain 7p to 146p.

Banks were depressed, much in line with the rest of the market, although an encouraging half-time statement from Hambros saw the shares rise 13p to 267p. But the "big four" clearing banks all showed losses as in the case of National Westminster 10p off at 323p, Barclays and Lloyds 35p and 27p respectively. Midland were 8p lower at 323p.

Insurances were another weak spot, with most of the majors retreating between 4p and 5p. Reduced interim figures from C. E. Heat saw the shares fall 7p to 166p. News that Carroon and Black had increased its stake in Minet Holdings to over 10 per cent in the

past two days with the purchase of over one million shares through the market did little for the share price, which remained unchanged at 97p. Two bearish circulars clipped brewery shares by a couple of pence in most cases and properties went into reverse following their attempt at a rally on Monday.

Tricentral has come up 21p to 255p in a week ahead of today's nine-month figures. Few note, however, how good they will be—some speak of profits for the full year indicated at around £17m against £8m—and analysts have been invited to Tricentral's headquarters to discuss the figures today. This is usually a cheerful sign. The thrust behind profits is the group's ability to sell a lot of output on the spot market at 140 or so a barrel which means that 1980 will also be a wonderful year.

Profit-taking clipped 5p from Cons Gold, a speculative stock of late, to finish at 331p. Equity turnover on November 19, was £78.210m (12,366 bargains). Active stocks, yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were: Tricentral, EMI, Cons Gold, RTZ, BP, GEC, Barclays Bank, Nat West Bank, Lasso, Ultramar, Turner & Newall, Marks & Spencer, Beecham and Avey's.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Anglo-Am Asphalt (1)	1.3(1.1)	0.09(0.003)	1.3(1.1)	1.0(1.05)	15.2	—
Equity Income (F)	—	0.72(0.57)	13.5(11.7)	9.4(7.4)	20.12	13.5(11.3)
Equity Income (F)	1.63(1.39)	0.96(0.85)	—	1.0(0.5)	11.1	—
Globe Inv (1)	—	9.7(10.4)	—	2.3(2.5)	31.1	—
Grant Bros (1)	—	—	1.62(0.58)	1.2(1.52)	—	—
GI Portland Ests (1)	—	3.25(2.75)	2.7(2.3)	1.0(0.65)	31.1	—
Hal Group (1)	40.0(35.0)	11(12.3)	2.5(1.87)	1.0(0.82)	28.2	—
Horax Tea (F)	—	0.01(0.18)	—	—	—	10(15)
Reynolds (1)	16.7(17.38)	0.78(0.70)	8.05(7.14)	14.5(13.9)	22.1	—
Tyack & Turner (F)	5.1(4.3)	0.03(0.01)	2.1(5.8)	—	—	1.25(2.87)
Wade Potteries (F)	9.3(8.6)	1.3(1.0)	10.39(9.95)	1.32(0.78)	—	1.83(1.12)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss; b Excludes special dividend of 0.8p; c For nine months.

W. Tyzack, Turner slumps: no final dividend

W. Tyzack, Sons and Turner's pre-tax profit plummeted from £157,000 to £30,000 in the year ending July 28 1979 surprising the board which announced that the company's internal accounting figures showed a higher level of profit than now reported at the interim stage.

With the departure of the group's finance director, Mr Edward Bridgeman, immediate steps are being taken to improve the situation, said Mr Timothy Reed, chairman. The optional problems of last winter, higher interest charges, the strength of sterling and pressure on margins were responsible for the lower profits, which meant the final dividend had been passed. An interim of 1.52p gross has already been paid compared with last year's total of 3.35p gross.

Smiths Industries' outlook uncertain

The engineering strike has made forecasting an increase in profits this year at Smiths Industries more uncertain, Mr

E. Roy Sissons, the chairman, says in his annual statement. But the order book is "encouraging", the balance sheet strong with gearing of only 15 per cent and remedial action already taken in divisions connected with the vehicle industry.

Mitchell Cotts team in Uganda

A team from Mitchell Cotts, the plantation company, arrived in Kampala yesterday less than two weeks after agreement had been reached with the Ugandan Government on re-vitalising the tea estates formerly owned by Mitchell Cotts and neglected by the Idi Amin government.

The team, consisting of two tea planters and an accountant, arrived just as news was breaking in London of Ugandan opposition to the agreement which gives Mitchell Cotts 49 per cent of the tea estates. The remainder is in the hands of the Ugandan Government. No compensation terms have been revealed.

But Mr Philip Dunkley, chairman of Mitchell, said that in far as he knew the agreement stands. He declined to comment on reports that the overall settlement over the plantations could be worth £7m.

Interim payment raised by Globe Trust

As well as lifting the interim from 3.73p to 3.92p gross, Globe Investment Trust is paying a special dividend of 1.14p gross. In the half-year to Sept. 30, pre-tax earnings rose from £8.42m to £9.77m. Globe's board expects to recommend a final payment of 5p, which would make a total of 8.92p—excluding the special dividend—compared with last year's 8.15p.

Rothschild to advise Norwest Holst

The board of Norwest Holst has appointed N. M. Rothschild & Co. as financial advisers to the company and the minority shareholders. This follows the

recent announcement that Messrs R. Slater and A. J. Lilley had informed Norwest of their desire to enter into discussions which may lead to their making an offer for the ordinary capital of Norwest not already owned by Dunham Mount Holdings, which they control. Shareholders are advised to take no action until a further announcement is made by Norwest.

Up by one third at Wade Potteries

After topping the £1m mark for the first time in 1977-78, more progress was made by Wade Potteries during the 12 months to July 31 last. Pre-tax profits rose by 31.7 per cent to £13.6m, another record, net profit per share rose from 30.08p to 38.65p and the total dividend is being boosted from 1.67p (adjusted) to 2.65p gross. Capital expenditure in 1978-79 reached £831,000.

Demand remains at a "satisfactory" level and the board feels the year ahead should be one of further progress.

Rehabilitation of Hambros Bank continues with better half-year

By our Banking Correspondent
The rehabilitation of Hambros Bank after its troubles in the Norwegian shipping industry continues with the half-yearly statement indicating after-tax profits—before investment gains and extraordinary items—of "significantly above" those of the same period last year.

Investment gains boosted after-tax profits £4.8m in the year to last March but this year London and Wall Street markets have not provided anything like the same degree of trading opportunities.

Last year, associated companies' contributions to the shape of Hambros Life Assurance and Berkeley Hambros, both of which have recently announced sharply higher dividends, were a major factor in the improvement.

But Hambros also announces banking profits "higher" than last year. Although there has



Mr. Jocelyn Hambros, chairman of Hambros Bank.

been no balance sheet growth in the half year and the corset has kept the lid on the loan book, the banking side has benefited hugely from the high sterling and dollar interest

rates in the period, which have helped to offset the squeeze on margins elsewhere. Last year's growth in acceptance, has also not been repeated, largely because the high cost of sterling borrowing and the strength of the currency has kept foreign customers at bay. The industrial leasing side continues to make good progress while the corporate finance division, helped by the Charter, Consolidated reconstruction, and the Thorn/EMI bid, has been kept active.

Meanwhile, the group is still relaxed about the Reken shipping loans. The interim dividend has been increased by a quarter to 7½p a share, giving 13p to 26p yesterday.

Another merchant banking group to report higher profits is Mercury Securities which in addition to its metal trading, insurance and shipping interests takes in the S.G. Warburg group.

HAT shrugs off building gloom

By our Financial Staff
Despite the downturn in the building and construction industry, the HAT group continues to make up ground.

Reporting turnover for the six months to August 31 1979 up to £40m against £35m the building trades and suppliers group produced a profit of £1.7m—a 38 per cent increase over the £1.23m during the same period last time.

One of the major reasons for HAT's halt to declining profits which were up to £3.5m in 1977, has been a conscious shift in the group's trading

stance. It has moved away from supplying the building trades to concentrating on direct contract work.

Traditionally the group's major earnings have always been during the second half of the year. Up until 1977 profits increase has been as much as 146 per cent in the last half over the first. Although chairman Mr Alfred Telling is not predicting an increase as high as this, all the indications are that the group could have increased from 1.87p full year to as high as £3.8m. Helping to boost profits will

be HAT's new maintenance scheme aimed at both the domestic and private building owners. Already a pilot scheme has been launched successfully in Bristol and an operation established in London. By the end of the current financial year, a total of eight maintenance contracts will have been established across the country.

An interim dividend of 143p a share gross has been declared which shows a growth of 21.2 per cent. Earnings per share has increased from 1.87p during the same period last time to 2.5p.

Gt Portland ahead of expectations

By Allison Mitchell
Following in the footsteps of Land Securities, which reported last week, property group Great Portland Estates turned in interim profits slightly ahead of expectations.

In the six months to September 30, pre-tax revenue rose by almost a fifth from £2.75m to £3.25m on gross rental income up from £4.5m to £4.78m. In line with its accounting policy, Portland has charged to pre-tax revenue the £336,000 spent on exceptional repairs from the refurbishment of buildings. This compares with a previous year when the cost is added back into the figures.

The gross revenue shows a rise of almost a quarter on the comparable period.

Group chairman Mr Basil Smith said yesterday that the six month improvement came from an increase in the number of properties under rent.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 1.42p against a previous 1p. The share yesterday eased 2p to 176p where they yield a historic 4 per cent. The recent property revaluation raised the net assets per share from a previous 209p to 390p.

Johnnies chief on gold price

A warning that the recession developing in the United States could have an adverse effect on the gold price in the short run has been given by Sir Albert Robinson, chairman of Johnnies Consolidated Investment.

But a gradual rise in the gold price may be expected if governments are unsuccessful in containing inflation, Sir Albert said.

Reviewing Johnnies' year, the chairman said that the company has been successful in raising capital for foreign borrowing because of high international interest rates. Another Rand 25m (£13.9m) will be invested in London-based property Gold Mining this year. The high gold price has allowed Western Africa to lower its grade.

Sir Albert accused the South African Government of taking too cautious a view of how much gold the country could afford to export. He said the current ceiling of 44 million tons should be raised.

Citicorp overhaul

New York—Citicorp, whose chief subsidiary is New York's Citicard, is to submit to its directors a plan for sweeping management and administrative changes. The restructuring is based on a new master plan for reaching the giant banking concern's goals, according to some sources. It could also offer

clues to future succession to the top executive post, currently held by Mr Walter R. Wriston, the company's 60-year-old chairman.—AP-Dow-Jones.

RTZ modernisation

Duisburg—Duisburger Kupferwerke, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto-Zinc, will invest DM52m to modernise its copper plant. The supervisory board approved the investment, which forms the first stage of a major programme due for completion by the end of 1981.—Reuter.

International

BASE AG hopeful

BASE of Germany expects its 1979 world group results to improve, extensively, on last year's levels, with turnover rising 20 per cent and earnings also up considerably.

The company will announce its results for the first nine months next week. Earlier this year the group announced first-half profits of DM847m against DM56m.

AEG-Telefunken

Frankfurt—A spokesman for Allianz Versicherungs-AG returned a report in the West

Rumours of Zambian war stir markets

by Michael Prest

Rumours that Zambia declared war on Zimbabwe-Rhodesia sent tremors through the markets yesterday. Prices of stocks and bond Rhodesian concerns marked down, while prices showed uncertainty and a general steadying became clear that or Zambian mobilisation had ordered.

Most dealers took the news that Zambian mobilisation was a natural reaction to Rhodesian incursions into its territory. One commodities dealer mentioned of copper, Zambian export: "Until the up the Victoria Falls, I won't be a buyer." The closed up on last week, a feeling was that with a log of about 90,000 awaiting shipment from Salama the price was no vulnerable.

Rhodesian bond dealers confident that a settlement be reached soon at La House and that a British error could be installed to bury as early as next week. A pilot scheme in Rhodesian bonds, which 14 years of paying no interest to UK holders attracted attention in weeks, was considered a reaction to the Zambian move.

The general feeling was most likely developments southern Africa angle ready, being discounted. Prices are quickly prepared to react to check the of their assets as so possible.

German weekly magazine Spiegel that AEG-Telefunken raising DM300m in a pro note loan

A report in the latest Der Spiegel said German insurance companies are planning to raise DM300m in a pro note loan.

The spokesman said it soon to predict the outcome of the meeting, but added that AEG could take the form of a loan. He said the D quoted by Der Spiegel is higher than the probable involved; while the 5% mentioned in the report not correspond with the to discussed.

BMW listing in Vic

Munich—Bayerische Motoren (BMW) said its have been admitted for and trading on the Bourse, from January 1, is the first foreign listed BMW, whose shares are in Frankfurt, Munich, W. Lin, Düsseldorf and Ha—Reuter.

Business appointments

New president elected at Firestone

Mr John W. Nordin has been elected president of Firestone. Mr R. W. S. Baker has become deputy managing director of Sun Life Assurance of Canada (UK).

Mr David Kiggell has been made regional director of the youth east region of Smarts Laundries Group.

Mr Chris Chaplin has been appointed a director of Stonehill Furnitures.

Mr P. Ferdinand has been made a director of Kuehne and Nagel UK.

Mr David Trimby has joined the board of Mears Contractors as financial director and company secretary.

Dr E. O. Walwyn-Jones and Mr T. Donald Smith have joined the board of World-Wide Assurance.

Mr David Roxburgh has resigned as chairman and group managing director of Dorothy Hecht, following the completion of the transfer of management control to the Euros group.

Mr Neville Beaton and Mr Martin Halsey have been appointed to the board of Canadian Foods.

Options

Traded options remained dull after fairly good business completed dipping from Monday's figure of 693 to 553. Dealers are anticipating an increase in business tomorrow with the introduction of a new series of Cons Gold January's 360 after the speculative amount of interest. But in spite of this, a number of options were also quiet; some calls were made in Ladbroke.

Dearer money cuts US stocks

For the first nine months of this year, United States corporate managers vowed to hold down inventories—but in every month through September, inventories increased.

Last month, however, the executives appeared to start to do what they had talked about doing for so long.

A key to the sudden switch to inventory cutting seems to be the United States Federal Reserve's tightening moves announced on October 9. The October survey by the 22,000-member National Association of Purchasing Management, indicates that 80 per cent of the 225 purchasing agents surveyed say that the rising cost of money is affecting inventory policies.

The upshot: the largest monthly cut in inventories in almost five years.

This indicates that even after fairly good business activity last month, managements are reacting to the higher money rates and pulling in their horns, says Mr Charles Haffey, chairman of the survey committee. The survey also indicates that corporate purchasing division of Pfizer.

"The Fed really applied heavy brakes, and managements are becoming very cautious about adding to inventory stocks. They are taking a close look at what they thought was a one-month supply and discovering they really have three to four months' worth of inventories."

Even before the Fed abruptly raised interest rates to defend the dollar, companies had ample reason to worry that their inventories might become a problem. They were painfully aware of what happened in the last recession.

All the year, corporate managements have been making the same vow. They said they had learned a lesson from the 1973-75 recession, which was deepened and prolonged by a huge build-up in inventories that had to be liquidated before the economy could begin moving upward.

The inventory sell-off in the first half of 1975 was by far the largest on record, and as companies cut back their buying, there were many plant closings and major lay-offs.

But in spite of this, a number of options were also quiet; some calls were made in Ladbroke.

Inventory rise was less than 0.1 per cent. According to the latest statistics from the US Commerce Department, inventories grew in the third quarter, but the increase was modest (about 0.1 per cent).

This was a little higher than the first quarter rate but down substantially from the second quarter's 0.3 per cent. The rate was also down from the 0.4 per cent increase in the first quarter.

Inventories climbed for several reasons. Some types of business, such as capital-goods makers, were still thriving—so they were stocking up to stay abreast of orders. Other industries, such as cars, had high inventories because of weak sales, and some businessmen were hedge-buying in fear that certain materials may become scarce.

Such a rise in inventories does not surprise economists. They say a build-up around the onset of a recession is normal because economic activity is then relatively high.

But the increase in inventories, particularly in relation to current sales, to about where it was in the late summer of 1974, was making corporate managers increasingly uncomfortable. And then the Fed struck. So last month, many companies—by no means all—embarked on a major inventory-cutting drive.

Of the 225 purchasing agents surveyed by their trade group in October, 34 per cent reported lower inventories, while only 17 per cent had higher ones. The rest turned in mixed figures. In September, only 19 per cent reported lower inventories and 23 per cent higher ones.

The Fed's moves did not affect planning immediately. Just over a week after the announcement, interviews with scores of inventory and production managers turned up concern about higher credit costs, but a widespread attitude that interest rates were just one consideration. A month later, however, many executives felt somewhat differently.

"It is one thing to talk about month-to-month inventory-carrying charges of around 2 per cent, but that could easily rise to 3 per cent, and that makes it a different ball game," says Mr Paul Sullivan, director of materials management for General Metal Products.

A St Louis metal- and fabrication owner says: "Our inventory is substantially higher than it should be unless we get it down. Going to a just-in-time possibility."

Potential marketing lens are spurring many companies to reassess inventory policies. At the Cal-products division of Lead-Ross Corporation, for example, inventories were deliberately created by about 20 per cent from earlier this year.

"However," he adds, "starting to see some softening in the economy and high cost of money, I want now wants us to off about half the gain."

The matter of hedge is a sensitive issue for executives who think of inventory as a bad connotation. They prefer to call it "forecasting" or "opportunity planning." Speculative buying raw materials in the event of rising prices at the inventory but prior to the last recession

Monthly figures for Great Brit

	Total	Seasonally adjusted	%
1979	1,391	1,274	5.4
Dec	1,308	1,261	5.3
1978	1,391	1,223	5.2
Nov	1,368	1,308	5.3
Oct	1,340	1,391	5.4
Sept	1,340	1,391	5.4
Aug	1,338	1,247	4.5
July	1,291	1,219	4.2
June	1,261	1,219	4.2
May	1,304	1,275	5.1
April	1,303	1,275	5.2
March	1,282	1,222	5.2

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Region	Number	Change
South East	248,000	-2,100
East Angles	29,700	-380
South West	87,000	-800
West Midlands	277,700	+1,100
E. Midlands	71,300	-200
Yorkshire	110,700	-600
North West	109,400	-500
Wales	76,600	-500
Scotland	1,225,000	-10,000
GB	1,225,000	-10,000
Ireland	1,225,000	-10,000



INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS REINSURANCE BROKERS AND UNDERWRITING AGENTS

Copies of the full Interim Report are available from the Secretary, C. E. Heath & Co. Limited, 100, South House, 151-154 Minster, London EC3N 1NR. Telephone: 01-493 2458

F.R.D. HOLLAND, Chairman

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

New code for
pensions
consultants

code of conduct and disciplinary procedures have been issued by the Society of Pension Consultants which has rewritten its constitution, changes, which formally severed the original connections between the Society and the Insurance Association, set out. The code, for the first time, defines the role of pension consultants and to make him liable for his actions. Mr. Bandey, President of the Society of Pension Consultants, welcomed yesterday that the code would not prevent consultants continuing with their work in the pension industry.

Briefly

D HOLDINGS sent uncertain economic and trial situation has led group's chairman, Mr. Frank Webster, to down his annual statement. He says the group is well placed to face short-term fluctuations and the various divisions are in a commanding position in the present situation.

ASSET interest charges and the ability of a nation are to affect the current position of S. Carter (Holdings), chairman, Mr. Philip Carter, group has increased its stock financing from bank loans and is highly confident in its future.

RENNON HOLDINGS chairman, Mr. Archie Rennon, welcomed improved results in current year despite the group's likely economic problems. He believes that the group is well placed to face short-term fluctuations and the various divisions are in a commanding position in the present situation.

EXPLORATION an associate of London and the Atlantic Oil, Mr. Morgan, all bought on basis of ordinary shares in Oil Exploration (Holdings) at 61p.

THE ATLANTIC OIL CORP. G. J. A. Jamieson, chairman, in his annual statement that the estimate of revenue for current year, which was further reduced by the fact that it should be possible to pay the dividend at the usual rate.

NO November 19 Casanova and bought 7,000 ordinary shares on London and Scottish Marine Oil, in favour of associates of London and Scottish Marine Oil.

IS OF LEADS as rents received for half to September 30 up from £1.63m and £1.63m up from £1.63m to £1.63m, interim dividend, gross, from 0.74p to 1.42p.

LI INSURANCE has exercised option to rise for 443,300 shares in its Property Investment, a share and now holds 1,988,300 or 10.4% per cent.

LINGTON VITELLA a company has purchased a receiver, current assets of £1.63m and £1.63m up from £1.63m to £1.63m, interim dividend, gross, from 0.74p to 1.42p.

THOMPSON never on HM Thompson diary of Glenlivet Distillery, then doubled to £1.63m, £1.63m for year to July 31, £1.63m profit, £1.63m, compared with £1.63m.

cont issues 1979/80 1980/81 1981/82 1982/83 1983/84 1984/85 1985/86 1986/87 1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 1995/96 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99 1999/00 2000/01 2001/02 2002/03 2003/04 2004/05 2005/06 2006/07 2007/08 2008/09 2009/10 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28 2028/29 2029/30 2030/31 2031/32 2032/33 2033/34 2034/35 2035/36 2036/37 2037/38 2038/39 2039/40 2040/41 2041/42 2042/43 2043/44 2044/45 2045/46 2046/47 2047/48 2048/49 2049/50 2050/51 2051/52 2052/53 2053/54 2054/55 2055/56 2056/57 2057/58 2058/59 2059/60 2060/61 2061/62 2062/63 2063/64 2064/65 2065/66 2066/67 2067/68 2068/69 2069/70 2070/71 2071/72 2072/73 2073/74 2074/75 2075/76 2076/77 2077/78 2078/79 2079/80 2080/81 2081/82 2082/83 2083/84 2084/85 2085/86 2086/87 2087/88 2088/89 2089/90 2090/91 2091/92 2092/93 2093/94 2094/95 2095/96 2096/97 2097/98 2098/99 2099/00 2100/01 2101/02 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Working for two Board Directors as PA/Secretary you will have had a good PA background, not necessarily related, but 20-25 and not be frightened of hard work. Your initiative, enthusiasm and dedication will be rewarded with top involvement, good prospects and an extremely responsible position. A lot of management work will certainly stretch your abilities and past experience to the absolute! This Company know how to treat their staff well so there are a lot of pluses to the salary and some varied and interesting people to work alongside so life will never be dull!

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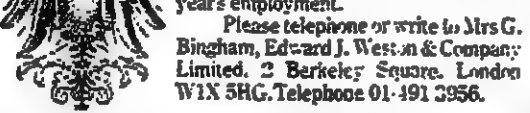
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We are looking for a capable, mature-minded and conscientious secretary to join us, an engineering company in the oil industry.

Shorthand is important and you must have fast and particularly accurate typing skills plus a talent for organisation and a high level of overall efficiency.

Working on an IBM electric typewriter in pleasant surroundings, you will be providing general support for a young, friendly team of engineers. A salary which reflects both your abilities and the importance we attach to this position will be supported by a full range of company benefits including a cash bonus of £500 at the end of one year's employment.

Please telephone or write to Mrs G. Bingham, Edward J. Weston & Company Limited, 2 Berkeley Square, London W1X 8HG. Telephone 01-491 3956.



SHARPEY-SCHAFER CENTRE Project Officer

£5,891-£7,103*
(inclusive of London Weighting)
Salary as at 1st January, 1980

The Director of the Sharpey-Schaffer Centre is seeking an adaptable person with a flair for administration and with organising ability to assist in control and management of the Centre's work.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate initiative, drive and tenacity. Experience as a senior secretary would be useful but the post might also suit an ex-Forces person with experience in project control.

The Sharpey-Schaffer Centre specialises in the application of management and computing sciences to health care and is situated at St Thomas' Hospital, only a few minutes' walk from Waterloo Station. Facilities include a subsidised staff canteen, session ticket loan scheme and a sports and social club.

For further details and an application form telephone Mr V. S. Robertson on 01-828 5232, ext. 2713, or write to Sharpey-Schaffer Centre, Riddell House, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London, S.E.1.

St. Thomas' Hospital LONDON, SE1 7EH Office Manager/P.A.

Starting Salary about £6,000

International Medical Research into Dialysis and Transplantation requires Office Manager and Personal Assistant to Chairman. The person (male or female) appointed will be responsible for an administrative centre in St. Thomas' Hospital which co-ordinates the collection of international data and prepares reports.

The project will include travel and knowledge of European languages will be an asset. Administrative flair and initiative will need to be coupled with careful attention to scientific data. Some typing will be necessary but secretarial assistance is available.

Further information obtainable from Anne Murray on: 01-633 0636, or applications in writing giving qualifications, experience and names of two referees to Dr. Wing, St. Thomas' Hospital. Closing date for applications 2nd January, 1980.

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Working for our Financial Advisor, you'll be handling much more interesting things than just figure-typing and accounts.

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No legal experience is necessary to become personal secretary to our busy legal executive.

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For a secretarial job with a bit of meat to it, phone Ann Dickinson on 01-637 5252 or write to her at Matthew Hall Group Services Ltd., 68 Charlotte Street, London W1.

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An opportunity to be involved in running a professional company. Control administration and weekly trading figures. Some audio/shorthand.

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For a Senior Executive of one of the most respected and progressive international organisations, with superb Head Offices in the City.

This is a top level secretarial appointment calling for experience of working at Board level, a friendly outgoing personality, and a professional approach to business. Top shorthand and typing speeds are essential, as is the ability to conduct general office procedures.

Aged 25-35, the appointed candidate can expect a salary of c. £6,000 p.a. plus a wide range of fringe benefits. The offices are ideally located for bus and tube stations.

Please apply in the first instance, with full details of age, experience and current salary to:

Miss E. A. Cargill,
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First Class Private Secretary

The Managing Director of an International Company, based in London, W.1, needs a secretary to assist him in the day-to-day running of the office. Ideally someone aged 25+ with excellent shorthand and audio skills and with a working knowledge of accountancy including VAT.

The right man or woman will be offered an excellent salary together with an attractive range of benefits.

In the first instance please ring David Goddard at Lansdowne Recruitment on 01-579 2282.

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7 Princes Street, Oxford Circus, London W1R 7RB



MARKETING PA £5,000+

The newest member of a large export company, needs a P.A. without shorthand, someone who can handle client contact and the involvement of a busy executive. If you have secretarial experience and would like to work for a dynamic company, call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Well established organisation needs an intelligent and efficient Secretary to handle the National Civil Service, Housing, like work. They enjoy a hectic atmosphere, dealing with community and government bodies, and involvement in youth projects. If you are a personable, efficient and hardworking, call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Work in the arts and humanities department of this professional educational body. The work is varied and interesting, for someone interested in this subject. An excellent opportunity to be in contact with both colleges and students. Please call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Be an inspiration and assist the M.D. in the future expansion of this prestigious furniture store. Be the contact with the public and be the link with the design department. Please call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Your career Director-level experience could secure you either of two top-line positions in a leading company. One is a P.A. to the Managing Director, the other is a P.A. to the Chairman. Call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Can you turn a profit? You can if you are a P.A. to a top-level executive and can handle the day-to-day running of the company. Call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Your fluent French and good secretarial skills will ensure that you assist the deputy M.D. in the day-to-day running of this prestigious cosmetics company. Call Mary Maxwell on 022 7282.

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Oil Company Salary £6,600

Our Client, a major Oil Company, requires Secretaries, aged 35-50, who have had experience at managerial level, preferably in industry, to work directly with the Managers of Divisions in the Company offices in Tripoli, Libya. Applicants should hold valid Short and Typing certificates proving speeds of 100 and 60 w.p.m. respectively.

Free hotel or furnished flat accommodation is provided. Thirty days U.K. leave is paid to point of origin and three days interim leave yearly to Rome, Athens or Malta. Within limits, personal baggage is taken or sent at Company expense. Overtime is paid beyond a forty week.

Applicants should write, in complete confidence, giving career detail quoting reference LIBYA/FR to:

F. Rothwell, C.B.E., Whitehead Technical Services Limited, The Whit Consulting Group, 21 Wigmore Street, London W1H 9LA.

WHITEHEAD

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This is a young and very up and coming advertising agency where freedom of expression and total involvement are the order of the day. You'll need to have excellent skills in a confidential manner and a real liking for total involvement. You'll be working to the M.D. dealing with clients and responsible for personnel. Partia plus salary negotiable.

TOP P.A./SEC. £5,000
If you're a self-starter P.A. with a very organised mind and very personable personality, you'll be ideal for this job. You'll be assisting the two senior directors of a well known ad agency in running their travel, social functions, luncheons and running the office when they are abroad. Extremely busy with extra responsibility for personnel.

TOP SEC./P.A. £5,000
A really exciting opportunity to work with a team of professionals at an up and coming ad agency with some really big names. You'll be assisting these senior account men and you'll need excellent skills including shorthand, and must have previous ad experience. There's a difference you'll really enjoy.

Please phone Linnette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 483 8455.
71 New Bond Street, London W.1.
ADPOWER RANDSTAD STAFF CONSULTANTS

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THE OBSERVER SECRETARY

We are looking for a very experienced Secretary to work for our ADVERTISEMENT DIRECTOR

You will need to have excellent shorthand/typing and administrative ability together with the capacity of working under pressure.

This is a rewarding and challenging job for a person who would enjoy working in the world of advertising and for someone who can demonstrate more than just "short-hand/typing" ability.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 5.30
Salary circa £4,700 (plus an attractive bonus), 4 weeks' holiday and a review due on January 1st. If you are interested, then write to 'phone Miss Jan Kruklicki on Ext. 225.

Personnel Department
8 St. Andrew's Hill, London EC4V 6JA
01-236 0202

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SECRETAIRE BILINGUE: Can you get to £16 per hr? The car comes with the job (and £2,500) as P.A./Secretary to the Overseas Director of a famous wine and spirits company. English shorthand only, but absolutely fluent SPANISH.

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according to age experience on a scale £5,203. Hours 10 5 weeks' holiday. L

Please apply, with Patricia Joughin, OF Percy Street, W1P 0JB. Tel: 01-54

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Secretary for Durs organisation which provides information world wide mad issues concern environment. App should be able to read, type and English speeds 1 Small friendly W.1

Career plan

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Please apply in confidence with c.v. to P. F. N. Hoogewerf, F.C.A., B.P. 1632, 43 rue Goethe, Luxembourg. Tel. 27381.

